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US, Israel pen draft to restart talks with Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

ISRAEL and the US have completed a draft, which addresses unsigned understandings achieved by the previous government, in an effort to restart the Israeli-Syrian dialogue. US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will bring the draft to Syria when he visits the region next week.

The development of the draft comes after reports, confirmed by sources, that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin made a conditional promise to President Bill Clinton that Israel would withdraw from the Golan to the June 4, 1967 borders as part of a peace treaty, once Israel was satisfied with Golan-related security arrangements and normalization.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said yesterday that the draft was penned following long talks between Ross and Dore Gold, a key adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after Netanyahu met Clinton on Monday.

"Now we will be going back to the Syrians," he said. "We have produced some ideas that we hope might lead to progress and convince Israel and Syria that they ought to reinstate conversations."

"Obviously, now having heard the views of the prime minister and his advisers, we will be going back to the Syrians. I can't tell you whether that contact was made this morning or whether it will be made tomorrow, but it will be made," he said.

Channel 2 reported that Israel, in the draft, accepted some of the understandings reached between Syria and the Labor government, but refused to commit to adopting all of them.

While *The Jerusalem Post* has reported that Rabin conditionally promised Clinton - apparently in 1994 - to fully withdraw from the Golan if he was satisfied with security arrangements and normalization, *Yediot Aharanot* revealed yesterday that the commitment to fully withdraw includes pulling back to the June 4, 1967 borders.

In contrast, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres privately had proposed withdrawing to the international boundary, which is several kilometers east of the June 4, 1967 line.

According to the *Yediot* account, Rabin agreed to make the conditional promise after he received an oral message from Syrian President Hafez Assad, via the US, that he would accept all of Israel's conditions regarding security arrangements.

However, this could not be confirmed.

Rabin did not inform Peres of this promise. Peres and his top aides first found out about it around the time of Rabin's funeral. According to the *Yediot* account, (Continued on Page 2)



Haggai Amir (left), Dror Adani, and Yigal Amir appear relaxed in court yesterday, where they were found guilty of conspiring to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Story, Page 2. (Photo: Oren Ziv/Israel Sun)

Search for missing soldier continues

BILL HUTMAN

AS the search for missing soldier Sharon Edri continued yesterday evening, Jerusalem police chief 'Alye Amit said that it appears his disappearance is related to a dispute he had with his commander.

The soldier was apparently called back to his base when he was on leave, and this upset him, Amit, who oversaw the search, told reporters.

Edri, 20, serves in a Nahal unit, and the search centered along the route from his home in Moshav Zanoah, near Beit Shemesh, to the Tzrifin army base, just outside Ramle.

The police and army were quick to call for a large search out of concern that his disappearance was terror-related. By yesterday evening, however, investigators believed it was unlikely he was kidnapped or otherwise fell victim to terrorists.

those interested to call 08-9279534.

Last night, Edri's parents returned from abroad, where they were visiting two children who live there.

Edri was last seen at about 10:30 Monday night, when he reported to a medical officer at Tzrifin. The officer turned down his request for medical leave, according to the police spokesman.

Edri's family rejected the police theory that Sharon disappeared due to a dispute with his commander. "He is a responsible young man, who is strong and stable," a family friend said.

Hundreds of policemen, soldiers, and volunteers took part in the search during the day. After nightfall, only a small group of searchers continued work.

Amit said that in addition to the foot search, much effort was being put into intelligence work.

The police last night urged people to join the search and asked all

US masses B52's, stealth fighters near Iraq

Perry: Saddam will learn we are not playing games

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Iraqi forces fired a missile at US warplanes over northern Iraq yesterday and the Pentagon said it was moving F-117A "stealth" fighters and B-52 bombers near Iraq in apparent preparation for new strikes against President Saddam Hussein's military.

US Defense Secretary William Perry said the Iraqi forces "will very soon learn that we are not playing games" and warned that any retaliation would be "disproportionate" to what he called new Iraqi provocations.

Eight stealth jets were being sent to Kuwait and the B-52s were already on a British base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, according to administration and defense sources.

Meanwhile, US defense officials said an Iraqi MIG-25 and a military helicopter defied US warnings and briefly flew into a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. No shots were fired.

Although the Iraqi SAM-6 surface-to-air missile missed the US F-16 fighters over northern Iraq in the morning, that triggered an escalation in a face-off which last Tuesday and Wednesday saw US cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq.

Perry told reporters the US was moving radar-avoiding F-117A stealth fighters, used to bomb Iraq during the 1991 Gulf war, to a country nearby. He would not say where, except to stress it was not Saudi Arabia.

US officials said privately that

eight F-117s would fly to bases in Kuwait on Iraq's southern border after the emirate granted permission.

Other officials said US B-52 bombers like those used in the cruise missile raids on southern Iraq last week had been moved from Guam in the Pacific to a British air base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

While the cruise missiles launched by warships and bombers last week targeted only air defense targets in southern Iraq, the US hinted that any new strikes could be more widespread.

"In Iraq, air defense crews are playing some kind of a game, and they will very soon learn that we are not playing games," Perry told (Continued on Page 2)

IMF issues highly critical report of Labor's handling of the economy

DAVID HARRIS

THE policies of the previous government caused the current economic crisis, the International Monetary Fund says in a report it issued at the conclusion of its annual visit to Israel yesterday.

While the Labor-led government was not mentioned by name, the major criticisms in the report are clearly leveled at the previous administration.

"The decision to depart from the pre-1994 fiscal consolidation path can only be viewed as a mistake,"

the IMF writes. "Expansionary fiscal policy during the last two years strained the economy's resources even further, and did so by boosting consumption rather than investment."

While praising most of the economic policies of the new government in its attempt to rectify the situation, the report points out, "much remains to be done, however, and progress in some areas is

hard to discern, notably on privatization."

Former finance minister Avraham Sobotnik refused to comment on the document, but Yossi Beilin, who was economics minister in the last government, admitted, "We made mistakes." However, he cast doubt on the government's ability to stick to its declared policies, something the IMF said it must do to avoid a serious financial crisis.

Full story, Page 8

Israel's population at 5.7 million

DAVID HARRIS

ON the eve of 5757, Israel's population stands at some 5,716,000, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

Some 4,620,000 residents (80.8 percent) are Jewish, with 835,000 (14.6%) Moslems, 166,000 (2.9%) Christians, and 95,000 (1.7%) Druse.

The population increased by 141,000 over the last 12 months, or 2.5%, a drop from 2.6% last year. The percent of new immigrants among the yearly increase dropped to 40% from 42%.

Eleven-justice panel to rule on fate of Nahmani embryos

EVELYN GORDON

ELEVEN Supreme Court justices will rule this morning on whether a man can prevent his ex-wife from using eggs fertilized in vitro with his sperm to produce a baby.

The court is hearing the case of Danny and Ruti Nahmani, who, since Ruti could not have a child normally, agreed that they would fertilize her eggs with his sperm in vitro and then implant them in a surrogate mother. When the marriage later broke up, however, Danny asked that the fertilized eggs be destroyed.

The eggs are probably Ruti's last chance at motherhood, since she is unlikely to be able to produce more even if she could find another sperm donor.

The Haifa District Court initially ruled in Ruti's favor, but the Supreme Court overturned this decision last year in a 4-1 verdict, ruling that a man cannot be made a father against his will. Ruti then asked for a rehearing before an expanded panel of justices, and the court, in a precedent-setting ruling, agreed to do so despite the fact that

late his fundamental human rights.

In his dissent, Justice Zvi Tal argued that the right to have a child is "a woman's most basic right," which "dwarfs the inconvenience of 'forced' parenthood."

Furthermore, he said, Ruti would have a baby if the process she and Danny started were allowed to take its natural course, so the court's decision represented an unnatural interference similar to forcing a woman to have an abortion.

The chances of the expanded panel overturning the original decision are slim, however. For it to do so, five of the six justices who were added to the panel would have to side with Tal's minority opinion.

THE SEA, THE AMAZING VIEW, THE INCOMPARABLE JAFFA

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SEASON'S SPECIAL Mazda TOURS

Amir brothers, Adani found guilty on all counts

RAINE MARCUS

A PANEL of three Tel Aviv District Court judges yesterday convicted Yigal and Haggai Amir and Dror Adani of conspiracy to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, conspiring to hurt Arabs and damage their property, and possession and transportation of weapons.

The decision, by Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hamer, and Shelly Timen was unanimous. Pre-sentencing arguments and sentencing were postponed until October 3.

The maximum sentence for illegal possession and manufacture of weapons is 15 years imprisonment. For conspiracy, the maximum sentence is a seven-year term. Prosecutor Feolna Guy intends to request the maximum sentences for all defendants, to run consecutively.

Yigal Amir is already serving a life sentence plus six years for assassinating

Rabin and wounding his bodyguard.

Shlomo Amir and his daughter Hadass were present to hear the verdict in the heavily guarded courtroom. All three defendants appeared relaxed and Yigal smiled faintly throughout the proceedings. After the verdict, Hadass Amir said that the proceedings "had no meaning and the only judge of my brothers is God. I didn't expect the court to conduct a fair trial."

Defense lawyers Shmuel Fleishman, Moshe Meroz, and Zion Amir said they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

Meroz, Haggai Amir's lawyer, said he was "disappointed with the verdict, but certain rulings by the court may be in our favor regarding sentencing."

But Zion Amir, representing Adani, said he was neither surprised nor disappointed.

"In such a high-profile case, I did not expect the court to separate itself from

general public feeling surrounding the murder of Rabin," Amir said. "Therefore, I am not disappointed. I did not expect the court's impartiality."

Haggai Amir was also charged with manufacturing explosives and making the hollow-point bullets used to kill Rabin. Some 65 such bullets, large caches of explosives, bombs, and other ammunition - some manufactured and some stolen from the IDF - were discovered by police at the Amirs' Herzliya home.

Previous attempts by Meroz to argue that Haggai's confessions to police and the GSS were made under pressure were discounted in earlier hearings, and Strashnov ruled that his testimony was genuine but he had simply later regretted his statements. Yigal had tried to protect Haggai by insisting he

had acted alone, Strashnov ruled, so Haggai would not be charged with the crimes.

Haggai's testimony to police and the GSS, Strashnov added, specifically mentioned decisions to kill Rabin, thus supporting conspiracy charges.

"Haggai Amir said that he and his brother reached the decision to harm Rabin," Strashnov said.

In delivering the 50-page verdict, Strashnov said that defense claims that Haggai tried to dissuade his brother from murdering Rabin by suggesting such "ridiculous" ideas as poisoning the water supply at Rabin's home or booby-trapping his car or microphone, were in fact genuine suggestions. Haggai actually conspired with his brother, with full criminal intent to kill Rabin, Strashnov ruled.

The defense had also claimed that Yigal had taken his brother on a car ride around Rabin's home "by coincidence" to discuss various ideas on how to murder him. But Strashnov ruled that the car ride was intentional, with Haggai's consent.

Defense lawyers had argued that ideas discussed between the three were not serious and were only "living room conversations," but Strashnov dispelled their arguments.

Haggai's original intention was to obtain - via the IDF - an M-16 rifle, on the grounds that he lived in the territories. He would then fit a silencer to it and give it to his brother to use to murder Rabin. But he was not given a license for the M-16, since he did not meet the desired criteria. However, the brothers tried out an Uzi, provided by Adani, and fitted it with an improvised silencer.

All three defendants were found guilty of forming an organization to harm Arabs and their property, including plans to sabotage electrical cables.

Adani would visit the Amir brothers regularly and knew of their plans, Strashnov concluded. He even offered to help booby-trap a car near Rabin's Ramat Aviv home. He temporarily severed his contact with the Amirs, renewing it about six months prior to the murder.

Strashnov agreed that Adani's played less of a part in the conspiracy than Haggai Amir. "However, he still brought up ideas and went to a rabbi to ask if there was a *din rodef* on Rabin. The rabbi told him that it was forbidden to kill Rabin, but Adani put his own interpretation on the ruling," Strashnov said. "In this case," Strashnov concluded, "justice has been done by the prosecution."

Report: US may hold back on cooperation with Egypt

ELDAD BECK and HILLEL KUTTLER

THE US is threatening to hold back on economic cooperation with Egypt, if Cairo refuses to host the third Middle East regional economic summit to protest the Netanyahu government's policies, according to a report in the daily *Al-Hayat*, published in Paris.

The report said a US delegation, headed by undersecretary John Spiro, that arrived in Cairo to prepare the summit made it clear that Washington intends to link fulfillment of the "Mubarak-Gore" cooperation agreement, signed in September 1994, with the holding of the Cairo summit.

Al-Hayat quotes Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz as saying that Egypt is examining the possibility of postponing the summit, since "the atmosphere is not appropriate." However, the Americans told the Egyptians that cancelling or postponing the summit will produce negative political and economic consequences.

The US believes that many of

the countries invited to the summit will decide not to take part in the meeting if it is delayed, and that investors and businessmen who are expected to attend the summit will avoid any financial commitments.

The US is urging the Egyptians to help in efforts to resume the peace process by holding the summit on time.

Egyptian officials in Washington said they have heard nothing of the US's reported linkage.

"All the preparation for the summit is going on, so there is no problem," an embassy official stated.

He added that recent declarations by Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on the need for Israel to fulfill its commitments to the Palestinians deal with "the essentials for the summit. If there will not be progress, the Arab countries will not send delegations. We never said it's a condition, [but] it would facilitate the success of the conference."

Temple Mount Faithful demand halt to Wakf construction on Mount

EVELYN GORDON

THE Temple Mount Faithful yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to force the police to stop the Wakf's illegal building on the Temple Mount.

The Wakf has recently been engaged in extensive building on the southern section of the mount, destroying several archeological remains from the Second Temple period, the petition noted.

Since the Wakf never obtained a permit for this work, the Jerusalem Municipality filed a complaint in the local affairs court, which issued an injunction ordering the work to be halted.

The Wakf ignored the order, however, as it does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over the mount, so the city asked the police to enforce the injunction. However, the petition said, the police refused to do so, on the grounds that it would cause rioting among the Arabs.

The petition noted that the police's decision is in direct violation of a 1993 High Court ruling on an earlier Temple Mount Faithful petition about illegal building by the Wakf. In this ruling, the justices upheld the authorities' decision not to take any action against the illegal building, most of which had been completed years earlier. However, they sharply criticized the authorities' negligence, demanded that the law be enforced from then on, and said they agreed to overlook this negligence only because of the authorities' promise to uphold the law in the future.

Furthermore, the petition said, the police's decision not to enforce a court order due to threats of violence destroys the entire concept of the rule of law, and will encourage widespread disobedience to the law by any group willing to back up its disobedience with violence. This decision is therefore completely unreasonable, the petition charged.

The petition also asked the court to order a criminal investigation into the illegal building, with the aim of putting the perpetrators on trial.

Golan lobby: We were right about Labor gov't

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Residents Committee was out surprised by the revelations in *Yedioth Aharonot* reporter Orly Azulai-Katz's 500-to-be published book claiming that late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had made a commitment to the US that Israel would withdraw from all of the Golan to the June 4, 1967 borders.

"These revelations prove that we were right when we charged that the [previous] government was prepared to withdraw from all of the Golan, even though the government denied it at the time," said Golan Residents Committee (GRC) spokesman

Uri Heitner. Heitner said he is cautious about some details in the book, because there appear to be some discrepancies, especially about Rabin's willingness to withdraw to the 1967, as opposed to the international border.

"It is also far from certain that the Syrians agreed to all the security arrangements demanded by Rabin. Nevertheless, it is clear, because we have this from so many different sources, that both Rabin and Peres were prepared for a complete withdrawal from the Golan," said Heitner.



Palestinians stream across a second Gaza crossing point for workers opened by Israel yesterday. The Sova checkpoint in the southern Gaza Strip will cut commuting time for between 800 and 900 Palestinians, who previously traveled to jobs in southern Israel through the northern Erez crossing.

High Court upholds Shetreet plan for Druse religious council

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld the composition of a new Druse religious council. The council has been the subject of a court battle between different segments of the community for the past two years.

During these two years, the community has not only lacked a religious council, but its religious court of appeals also has been inoperative and its lower religious court has operated with only one kadi, since only the religious council can appoint kadis.

The previous, three-member Druse religious council dissolved after the 1993 death of the community's spiritual leader, Sheikh Amin Tarif. Then-religious affairs minister Yitzhak Rabin decided to replace it with a 45-member council, which would include the heads (*sa'isim*) of all 30 Druse houses of worship, plus 15 other religious leaders - seven chosen by the *sa'isim* and eight chosen by the minister.

Several petitions were filed against this decision, charging that it did not give adequate representation to secular Druse. The High Court ruled that the ministry should study the views of all factions involved, then decide whether to revise its decision.

After this information-gathering process, then-religious affairs minister Shimon Shetreet decided to change the composition of the council. He suggested a 60-member council composed of the 30 *sa'isim*, 15 appointees of the Druse local councils, and 15 members appointed by the minister, in consultation with the local councils and the *sa'isim*. However, this decision was also challenged by several petitions.

The petitioners argued that the decision gave a minority faction of the community - that headed by the Tarif family - control over the majority; did not provide adequate representation to secular Druse; and violated democratic principles, since the council members would not be elected. They wanted a council elected by all registered members of a house of worship, and even submitted a religious ruling by several dozen Druse scholars saying that ministerial appointments to the council would violate Druse law.

Other factions of the community supported Shetreet's plan, however, and submitted their own religious ruling, signed by 155 Druse scholars, saying appointments by the minister were okay, but elections would violate Druse law.

After several attempts to reach a compromise failed, Justices Eliezer Goldberg and Yitzhak Zamir, with Mishael Cheshio dissenting, upheld the Shetreet plan. This plan gives some representation to both religious and secular factions, since the latter can attain seats either as the local councils' candidates or as the minister's appointees. Thus, even if it does not provide as fair a reflection of the community's make-up as elections would, it is not so unreasonable as to justify the court's interference, they said.

This is especially true given the

urgent need to appoint a religious council immediately, since Shetreet's system can be implemented much more quickly than elections, they said. Furthermore, the new council will only be in place for five years; during this time, the new minister can study the issue and introduce reforms if needed, they added.

Cheshin, in his dissent, argued that neither Rabin nor Shetreet had the authority to draw up new regulations, because they were never asked to do so by the Druse themselves. Furthermore, he said, the Shetreet system violates a fundamental democratic principle, and therefore should be replaced by elections, even if these will take longer.

IRAQ oo-ly zones established in north and south Iraq. In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency quoted an Iraqi military spokesman as saying air defense units used artillery and missiles against US and allied warplanes over north and south Iraq yesterday. A Pentagon official said he could not confirm an attack on US flights in the south. The SAM-6 surface-to-air missile, fired yesterday at two US F-16 jets, missed the planes and caused them no damage, Pentagon officials said. They had earlier said that two missiles were fired, but said information given by the pilots later indicated only one was involved.

IRAQ

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SYRIA

Washington deals precisely with the question of the validity of past verbal or unsigned understandings.

It seems the Netanyahu government still insists that past arrangements are not binding, but reportedly is willing to "take them into account" during negotiations.

Netanyahu reportedly told journalists accompanying him back to Israel yesterday that he had accomplished three goals on his trip: "strengthening of ties with the American-Jewish community; strengthening ties with US President Bill Clinton; and arriving at a formula to allow for a renewal of the talks with Syria."

Netanyahu called his meeting with Clinton "open and like with family."

"There was chemistry between us, we clicked, it was an open, relaxed meeting," a Channel 1 reporter quoted him as saying.

Eldad Beck adds: Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy said that Syria is asking for more details about the "Lebanon first" proposal. In an interview published in the French daily *Le Figaro*, Levy said, "The Syrians have publicly rejected this proposal, but recently we have gotten certain indications they would like to have details about it."

The funeral of the late **Prof ZALMAN RUBINSTEIN** will take place today, Thursday, September 12, 1996, at 2:00 p.m., at the Yarkon cemetery. The family

A memorial service to mark the shloshim of our beloved sister **GEULAH (Greenblatt) ABRAHAM** who died in Princeton, N.J. will take place on September 15, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. Devoted wife of Elihu, caring mother of David, Lusan and Yonatan, and well-known modern dance choreographer. Shmuel and Leora Goren

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150



Police are searching for this man who robbed a Tel Aviv bank last month. Anyone who recognizes him is requested to call the police at (03)-545-4414 or (03)-545-4418.

Police seek help in catching robber

TEL Aviv police have appealed to the public for help in identifying a bank robber who made off with NIS 10,000 from Discount Bank's Yehuda Macabbi Street branch in Tel Aviv on August 25. Part of the robbery, carried out by a man armed with a pistol, was filmed by the CompuMedia company's new digital video recording system, Videowatch, which is currently being tested in several branches of

RAINE MARCUS

Hapoalim and Discount Banks. For over a year, banks have been debating whether to install expensive video systems to prevent robberies and identify perpetrators. Former Internal Security minister Moshe Shahal initiated discussions with the Bank Association and police, but so far no perma-

nent CCTV arrangements have been instituted, apparently because of the cost.

There were four cameras in the Yehuda Macabbi branch, two of which recorded the robber's movements, the robbery and his exit. This is the first time that a bank robbery has been documented on video.

Anyone with information on the theft is asked to phone (03)-545-4414 or (03)-545-4418.

Jeweler remanded for allegedly hiring hit man

A JERUSALEM jeweler, who allegedly hired someone to kill a relative of his for opening a jewelry store that competed with his own, was remanded yesterday for eight days in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

The suspect, Raul Pe'er, allegedly contacted the hit man Monday night. In exchange for NIS 10,000,

they agreed the hit man would kill Guy Tatravili by faking a traffic accident and setting Tatravili on fire inside his car, according to police.

Detectives, tipped off about the deal, detained both Pe'er and the man he hired later the same

BILL HUTMAN

night. Police declined to give details about the hit man, who was not remanded.

Pe'er, 33, admitted having a dispute with Tatravili, but denied planning to kill him. Tatravili learned the trade while

working at Pe'er's jewelry store on Rehov Ben-Hillel. About three years ago, Tatravili opened his own jewelry store nearby, and since then the two have been in conflict.

Police said they had complaints on record from Tatravili and his wife about past threats and attacks by Pe'er.

Bus driver gets 4 years for crash which killed 8

THE Jerusalem District Court yesterday sentenced Egged bus driver Haim Shmaryahu, 56, whose bus overturned while he was speeding, to four years' imprisonment plus two years' suspended sentence. The court also permanently revoked his license to drive buses, and suspended his license to drive a car for 12 years.

Last week, the court found Shmaryahu guilty of manslaughter and causing serious injury in the accident, which killed eight and injured 10. According to an investigation conducted after the accident occurred last October, Shmaryahu had been driving bus No. 487 at 108 kph in the rain on a steep, curvy part of the route between Jerusalem and Ein Gedi when he lost control of the bus.

Judge Yehudit Tsur declared that he had been speeding recklessly, considering the circumstances and the additional safety regulations that apply to bus

drivers. She said she imposed a stiff sentence because he had been driving a public bus and because of the high number of fatalities resulting from the accident. Furthermore, she said, the high fatality rate of traffic accidents requires that such crimes be dealt with severely.

Her ruling also took into consideration the injuries Shmaryahu received in the accident, and his agreement not to drive buses in the future.

"This is a very severe punishment, that will, without a doubt, serve as an important deterrent to Egged's drivers as well as all other drivers," Egged spokesman Ron Ratner said yesterday.

However, the sentence's harshness dismayed and shocked Egged, he added.

An internal Egged committee had found Shmaryahu guilty immediately after the accident and suspended him. (Itm)

Jewish Agency to launch aliya program in Germany

ABOUT 80 percent of the Jews from the former Soviet Union currently living in Germany are unemployed and the Jewish Agency is about to embark on a program to bring them to Israel.

Special emissaries will begin working with the community in Germany next month and many will be provided with on-the-spot training to enable them to find work in the Israeli market, Agency Treasurer Hanan Be-Yehuda said yesterday.

Be-Yehuda, who visited the community during the summer, drew up the absorptio plan which was endorsed by the recent meeting of the agency's Board of Governors.

"The [former Soviet] community is cut off from the remainder of the Jewish community in Germany and its members feel alienated," he said. "There are particular problems with the youth who cannot find their

BATSHEVA TSUR

place in schools and society." He said youngsters would be offered the possibility of joining the Na'aleh-16 program, under which youth come to study in Israeli boarding schools and are often followed by their parents.

Since the wave of Jewish emigration from the former Soviet Union began in late 1989, some 50,000 Jews settled in Germany. They were attracted by what they saw as cultural and climatic similarities and by welfare benefits offered by the German authorities.

"Before the end of 1989, there were 27,000 Jews in Germany. The former Soviet Jews have swelled their numbers to close to 80,000 and, if the trend continues, we expect the number to reach 100,000 at the end of the century. This makes Germany the third

largest Jewish community in western Europe, after Britain and France. This is a Zionist and moral issue of the first order," Be-Yehuda said.

Meanwhile, the agency and the Absorption Ministry announced yesterday that 70,500 new immigrants have arrived in Israel since last Rosh Hashana, 58,000 of them from the CIS.

This brings the total of new immigrants since September 1989 to 746,500, of whom 641,580 came from the CIS. Another 250 new immigrants are expected to land here tonight in time for the New Year.

The number of North American immigrants in the past year was 2,800, and 2,200 came from Latin America. Some 4,300 Jews made aliya from Europe, not including the CIS, and 3,200 came from other places, the agency spokesman said.

Two officers convicted for bribing soldier to take blame for accident

POL. (res.) Moshe Galili, former commander of the IDF's National Rescue Unit, and Maj. (res.) Oded Saguy were convicted recently by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court of fraud, breach of trust, obstructing justice and fabricating evidence for bribing a soldier to take the blame for a traffic violation. The charges, to which the two confessed, related to an incident which occurred while he two were on reserve duty. According to the conviction, Galili, 64, of Petah Tikva, and Saguy, 55, of Ajlun, paid NIS 1,000 to an IDF soldier to compensate him

for the affair. In July 1989, Galili was caught speeding on the Geba Highway. Galili feared that his license would be revoked, so Saguy suggested that they get a soldier in their unit, Eyal Yakar, to take the blame and promised him they would pay the fine and get him transferred to the rescue unit for this reserve duty.

The two were charged with fabricating evidence, as they wrote a letter to the army saying Yakar was speeding because he had been paged by his army beeper. This was

presented as evidence in court, and as a result a symbolic fine of NIS 50 was given. Later, Galili and Saguy were unable to transfer Yakar to their unit, and Yakar asked for NIS 2,000 in compensation. He later reported the entire affair to the authorities.

Galili, who recently returned from Argentina where he was a Defense Ministry emissary, expressed regret in court. His attorney said he felt he was an Israeli hero who had been turned into a criminal. "I have been through a difficult time and have not accepted job offers because of my

shame and sorrow," Galili told the court. Saguy's attorney said his client had left the military after a 15-year career because of the incident.

The defense attorney asked the court to give the two community service as punishment, while the prosecution asked for a sentence to be served through community service.

The judge said he would issue his sentence at a later date, and in the meantime asked the two to present a community service proposal. (Itm)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Twelve-year-old boy killed by train

A 12-year-old boy was killed when he was hit by a train while he was crossing a railway track south of Nahariya yesterday. The spokesman for the Galilee police district said the youngster was cycling to school and failed to stop at the railway crossing barrier even though it was down because of the train on the track. David Rudge

Man tries to kill woman, commit suicide

A Nahal Iron man slashed the throat of a woman yesterday and then tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself. They were both listed as being in serious condition at Hadera's Hillel Yoffe Hospital yesterday. The man has a history of mental illness. Police said they are trying to determine the relationship between the two. Itm

Demand for fire victim committee

A committee of ministry directors-general should be set up to help the victims of last week's Jerusalem Corridor fire, the Knesset Economics Committee demanded yesterday. Meir Vizer, head of the Judea Regional Council, told the committee that a directors-general committee was set up after last year's big fire, and succeeded in solving all the problems to the residents' satisfaction. The residents would therefore like to see a similar committee this time, he said. Evelyn Gordon

Nine injured in clash between families

A fight broke out between two families in the Jabal Mukaber neighborhood of eastern Jerusalem yesterday morning, with nine people injured by stones and clubs before police arrived to break up the dispute, police said. Eight people were detained. The fight was apparently sparked by a dispute between the families over land, a police spokeswoman said. She added that in a search of the suspects' homes, an uzi machine gun and three cartridges were found, which were apparently fired during the clash. However, there were no injuries from the gunfire. Bill Hutman

State appeals sentence of baby-batterer

The state appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday against the lenient sentence given a man who battered his 40-day-old baby. The man was convicted by the Beersheba District Court of breaking the baby's bones in nine places over a two-and-a-half week period, as well as causing hemorrhaging. However, Judge Ruth Avida sentenced him to only 33 months, saying the state had not succeeded in proving that the damage was the result of deliberate cruelty. In her appeal, State Attorney Edna Arbel argued that there was no way to explain so many serious injuries over an extended period of time as anything but deliberate cruelty, and therefore, the man deserved a much more severe sentence. Evelyn Gordon

Petition demands speeding ticket for Justice Dorner

SUPREME Court Justice Dalia Dorner, who was caught going 124 kilometers per hour in a 100-km/h zone, should be given a ticket for speeding just like anybody else, former Kach activist Noam Federman demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Dorner was caught speeding on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway in early August, but the policeman who stopped her let her off with a warning. After this was publicized in the media, Federman complained to the

EVELYN GORDON

head of the traffic police, Asst.-Cmdr. Udi Efrati, who agreed that people driving at such a speed should be ticketed and fined, and said instructions to this effect had been given to all the traffic police. However, Efrati said he did not intend to change the policeman's original decision and give Dorner a ticket.

Federman therefore petitioned the High Court, arguing that precisely because of her position as a

Supreme Court justice, who frequently sits in judgment on other people, the police must treat her as they would any other violator. Otherwise, he said, it will appear that there is one law for ordinary citizens and another for the powerful and important.

There is no problem with giving her a ticket retroactively, he added, since this is done all the time. When the police photograph someone running a red light, for instance, they are often sent a ticket in the mail instead of being stopped at the time, he noted.

Reform movement: Police taking too much time in investigation of threatening phone calls

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Reform movement has charged that the police are dragging their feet in efforts to identify the callers who made hundreds of threatening telephone calls to the movement's Israel Religious Action Center, from pay telephones in or near yeshivot in Jerusalem.

In response, the police stressed the difficulties in identifying the callers, considering the yeshivot have hundreds of students who come and go at different times of the day.

In a related development, Israel's Masorti Movement

charged that Nissim Ze'ev of Shas, head of the Jerusalem Municipality sites commission, had deliberately blocked allocating a site for a day care center which the movement wanted to set up in Pisgat Ze'ev. The commission had told the movement that it had to re-evaluate the needs of the neighborhood, but Rabbi Einar Rimon, spokesperson for the movement, noted that Ze'ev had boasted in the Jerusalem local press that the request would not pass because of the increased power of the haredim in the local government.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab school to get more staff

Additional staff will be added to the Arab sector's only special education school so that 11 youngsters with severe hearing and/or vision impairments can study there, the Education Ministry said yesterday. Attorney Hassan Jabareen, representing the families, said he did not yet have this promise in writing, but was hopeful the children could start school as early as tomorrow.

Originally, the ministry had refused to okay the extra staff due to lack of funds and ordered the children placed in regular schools. However, it reversed itself in response to Jabareen's complaint to the State Attorney's Office and press coverage. Evelyn Gordon

Burg to investigate reports about post-war distribution of stolen Jewish assets

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday he was investigating media reports of Swiss and British involvement in the post-World War II distribution of Jewish gold and assets plundered by the Nazis. Burg, who is currently in the US, said he would consider raising the issue at the next meeting of the Volcker committee looking into Holocaust assets. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Jewish Agency Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda has written to Swiss President Jean-Pascal Delamuraz asking for his intervention in locating funds deposited not only by Jews but by the Nazis and their collaborators who looted assets from their Jewish victims. Jerusalem Post Staff

PA, Israel request Hebron observers remain

Acting Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Beatusur and the head of the Palestinian Authority's Steering Committee Saeb Erekat met in Jerusalem to sign a letter to be presented to Norway's Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs to request an extension of the Norwegian Observer Force in Hebron's mandate for one month. Jerusalem Post Staff

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World hails UN approval of nuclear test ban

LONDON (Reuters) - World leaders yesterday welcomed UN approval of an atomic weapons test ban, but cautioned that obstacles remained on the road to nuclear disarmament, as India is blocking the treaty from becoming law.

US President Bill Clinton hailed the General Assembly's 158-3 Tuesday vote in favor of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), as did others among the five declared nuclear states - US, Russia, Britain, France, and China.

Clinton said the concerns of India, which says it opposes the treaty because it does not go far enough in spelling out a timetable for global nuclear disarmament, could be addressed.

"I believe we can find a way for the Indians to have their security concerns met," he said.

Of the three undeclared nuclear states believed to have atomic programs, India has vowed to oppose the pact, Pakistan says it will not sign as long as India refuses to do so, and Israel supports the treaty.

India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and is one of the 44 nations which must ratify the CTBT for it to enter into force.

China, which on July 29 held what it said would be its last nuclear test before a self-imposed moratorium that took effect the

following day, welcomed the UN endorsement and took the rare step of urging worldwide accession to the pact.

"This undoubtedly conforms to the common interests of the entire international community," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang was quoted by the Xinhua news agency.

Britain and France both said they would sign the test ban treaty at the earliest possible date on September 24. US officials said Clinton, who cancelled further US tests in 1993, also plans to sign the treaty then at the UN.

French President Jacques Chirac, who caused a furor a year ago by staging six atomic tests in the South Pacific, hailed the test ban treaty as a turning point in the arms race.

"This success should allow [the world] to turn the page of the nuclear arms race... For future generations, it opens the hope of a world freed from the threat of the proliferation of atomic weapons," a government spokesman quoted Chirac as saying.

European Union president Ireland said it welcomed the UN move, but Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said in a statement: "This treaty is not the end of the process. There is a need for further systematic and progressive efforts

towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "We have jumped over one important hurdle on the way to a permanent ban on nuclear tests, but we have not yet reached our goal by any means. We may not be able to put the genie of the atom back into the bottle, but we have at least tamed it."

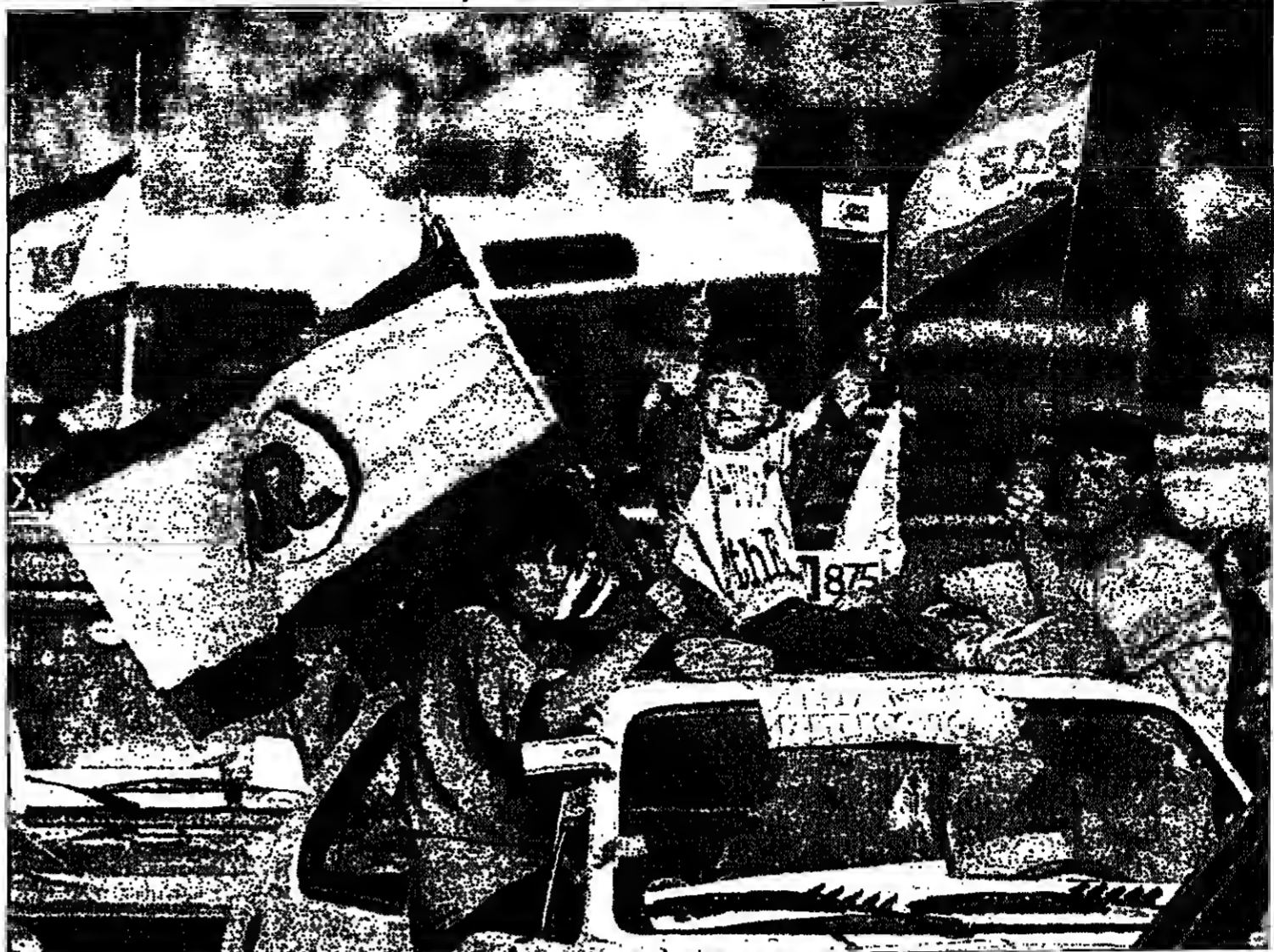
Japan, the only nation to suffer atomic bombing, led the chorus of praise among most Asian nations for the UN move.

"It is a big step forward," Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters. "From now on, the international community must make its utmost efforts to persuade India and other countries to accept the treaty."

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with neighboring India since 1947, says although it voted in favor of the treaty, it will not sign the CTBT unless India does the same.

Australia said the UN endorsement of the landmark test ban treaty was a vital move towards ridding the world of nuclear weapons, but stressed the treaty was not perfect.

Malaysia called on those opposed to the CTBT at the United Nations India, Libya, and Bhutan to rethink their positions.



A boy sitting on top of a car joins other Sarajevans in waving flags during a spontaneous demonstration in support of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his SDA party yesterday. Bosnia's first post-war elections are to take place on Saturday. (Reuters)

France torn over how to counter Le Pen's National Front

PARIS (Reuters) - The French political establishment was torn yesterday over how to counter the far-right National Front, after its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen openly espoused racial inequality.

Some political leaders advocated banning the party or taking it to court for inciting racial hatred, after the outspoken Le Pen said that racial differences are "a fact."

Others were arguing, however, over election law reforms expected to help the Front break into the National Assembly, where it now has no seats, in the 1998 general elections.

Mainstream politicians sounded in broad agreement, though, on their frustration over the Front's uncanny ability to grab the political spotlight and appear to thrive on bad publicity.

Triggering a fresh firestorm, Le Pen said on Monday: "To say that the races are unequal is a fact, an unremarkable statement." He cited

as an example the "obvious difference" between white and black athletes at the Olympics.

Former National Assembly speaker Henri Emmanuelli promptly called for the Front to be banned, and his Socialist Party later demanded that the government open a judicial probe of Le Pen's remarks. Inciting racial hatred is illegal under French law.

Justice Minister Jacques Toubon threw cold water on the opposition Socialist's plea, suggesting a ban is unconstitutional and urging instead that all politicians individually "fight against these ideas in the political arena."

"The National Front has been saying the same thing for a long time. Those who are now asking to ban it could have done so when they were in power," added Jean-Claude Gaudin, minister for territorial planning, urban affairs and integration.

In a bit of bad timing for the center-right government, Prime

Minister Alain Juppe had last week proposed a reform in election law that political analysts said would enable the Front to win a sizable bloc of seats in the National Assembly.

A major goal of the reforms appears to be an attempt at winning the Front's good will.

Angered by the government's perceived past wrongs, Le Pen has been routinely opposing all the ruling center-right's candidates, even when a Front candidate is not in the race.

The center-right is worried that the National Front could take enough votes from it in 1998 to hand control of parliament to the left, which governed until 1993.

Le Pen won 15 percent of the vote in last year's presidential elections.

Front official Alain Vizzier denied Le Pen knowingly set out to generate publicity over his views on racial differences, but acknowledged it would not surprise him if the party kept rising in opinion polls.

Man dives off bridge in dramatic rescue

HARRISON, New York (AP) - The rescue attempt meant a 46-meter swim dive into the Hudson River, but volunteer firefighter Daniel Santos stopped only to leave his wallet with a bystander.

Yesterday, he was Page One news in New York and a hero.

Santos' Monday afternoon commute ended on the Tappan Zee Bridge, when a woman just ahead of him slammed her car into a railing, got out, and jumped into the river.

Santos, 21, reacted in what friends said was predictable fashion. He got out of his pickup truck, walked to the rail, left the wallet, looked over the edge, and dove in.

The drop left both Santos and the woman, Maria Cappozza, 24, of Greenwich, Connecticut, injured and semiconscious, but alive.

Saddam offers amnesty in bid to keep Kurds at home

SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq (AP) - Seeking to prevent an exodus of Kurdish refugees, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday declared a general amnesty for all Kurds and lifted barriers between Iraq and the Kurdish area that have been in place since the safe haven was set up at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Reassured, some Kurds returned to the northeastern city of Sulaymaniyah, filling the roads with trucks, tractor-pulled carts and pickup trucks.

Others, still nervous, flooded into the rugged hills of northeastern Iraq, including leaders of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the losers in a week of fighting in northern Iraq.

At the UN refugee agency in Sulaymaniyah, officials drastically lowered their refugee estimates from 300,000 on Tuesday to 50,000. In addition, about half of the 50,000 refugees have returned home, said an official who requested anonymity.

About 5,000 Iraqis have crossed the Basmaqaq border post into Iraq, border guards said yesterday, and several thousand more are believed to have crossed elsewhere.

Those figures appeared to be in line, generally speaking, with the latest UN estimates.

There has been no fighting in northern Iraq since the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), backed by Iraqi troops, took control of the region Monday. As a result, many refugees who fled Sulaymaniyah have turned back and headed home.

However, Iran's official Teheran Radio said yesterday that "tens of thousands" of Iraqi Kurds had entered Iran and that aid workers are struggling to provide food, water, and medical care for them in temporary camps along the border.

"Half our family is here, half is there," said Miriam Hussein, a mother of seven children. "I sent two of my daughters this morning to the Iranian side to find my two sons who had fled. But none have returned. Now I have four children over there."

On the Iraqi side, a UN team was mobbed by refugees when it went to investigate the scene at the border.

Refugees desperate for help surrounded the UN vehicle and wouldn't let the officials leave for almost two hours, said one UN official.

In Sulaymaniyah, the KDP troops flaunted their new authority after capturing the city from their rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

KDP fighters carrying AK-47 rifles rode through the streets in pickup trucks decorated with yellow flags and streamers. Women and children dressed in yellow the party color and merchants hastily plastered photocopied pictures of KDP leader Massoud Barzani on store windows.

About 30 kilometers northeast of Sulaymaniyah, KDP fighters looted everything they could carry from the headquarters of the PUK.

Soldiers and villagers towed away air conditioners, wire, pipes, even light bulbs. One old man stumbled away with three fluorescent light tubes, a large ceramic urn, and a toilet seat.

At the nearby two-story villa of PUK leader Jalal Talabani, looters filled trucks with furniture not completely destroyed in a fire. KDP soldiers claimed Talabani ordered the blaze set when it was certain that the town would be overrun.

The one object that survived the fire unscathed was a large sculpture in front of the villa in the form of the PUK emblem: a hand grasping a red flower.

Talabani and dozens of his top commanders are among those who fled to Iran, according to border guards.

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Hurricane Hortense strengthens after pounding Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Hurricane Hortense strengthened yesterday over open waters and picked up speed as it moved away from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, where it dumped up to 50 cm. of rain and left at least eight people dead.

The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands were expected to bear the brunt of Hortense, which is moving northwest at 21 kph with dangerous 145 kph winds and torrential rains.

Those rains pounded eastern Puerto Rico with near-record amounts on Tuesday, flooding major

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streets and highways and sending rivers and creeks surging over their banks. A flood warning remained in effect yesterday.

Hortense cut water and electricity to most of Puerto Rico's 3.6 million people, destroyed more than 650 homes, and stranded hundreds of cars with chest-high water in San Juan, the capital.

A canal in southeastern Puerto Rico burst its banks Tuesday night and swept away a house with four people inside. Police said the four were missing and feared drowned.

Half the dead in Puerto Rico were children, including an 8-year-old girl swept from her father's arms as her 13-year-old sister drowned.

Residents watched the girls' father trying to save the younger child, only to have the surging water drag her from his hands. The sisters' bodies were found under a bridge. Four other family members were missing.

Her heart belongs to Boris

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia (AP) - Not only did President Boris Yeltsin win Zinaida Boliyeva's vote, he may have won her heart literally.

The 46-year-old woman has offered her heart to the ailing Yeltsin if he needs a transplant, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported yesterday.

Yeltsin is scheduled to undergo heart surgery at the end of September. Details have not been given, but it is expected he will have a bypass operation.

But if he needs a new heart, Boliyeva says he can have hers.

It is not "self-sacrifice, but a common-sense civic act," ITAR-Tass quoted her as saying.

Boliyeva, from Beslan in the Caucasus republic of North Ossetia, made the offer to the local office of the pro-government movement Our Home Is Russia and asked that it be conveyed to the head of the country's top cardiological clinic.

"The Russian president must have a healthy heart and a high working ability. He has to continue the course of democratic reforms and economic transformations which he has launched," she said, according to the report.

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סניף מרכזי

'Prayergonomic' chairs for the holidays

AMY KLEIN

I used to be that "buying a seat" for High Holy Day services was figurative: you were reserving a place in the synagogue for services. This year, however, some shul members are paying for the actual seat: new orthopedic seats specially designed for comfort while praying.

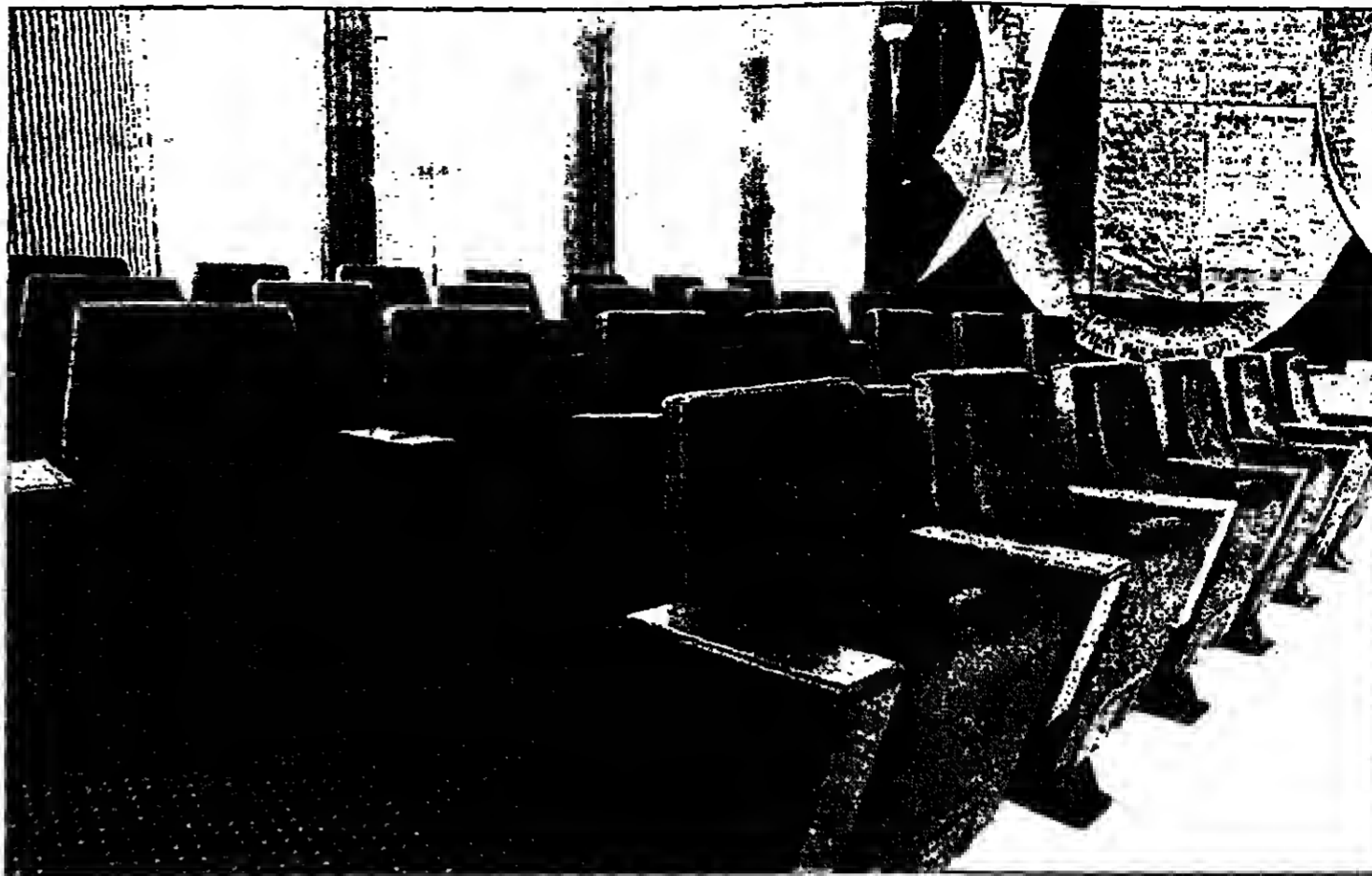
Between Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Succot and Simhat Torah, people can spend as much as 50 hours in shul. That's 3,000 minutes of standing, shuckling, bowing, and finally, when the ark is closed, sitting. "Sitting for such a long time can cause many back problems," says Nitsim Zurel, marketing manager of Tzora furniture, the company that designed the new prayer-gonomic chairs.

Tzora, the Jerusalem-area kibbutz-based company, is one of the biggest manufacturers of office furniture in the country, and the only ones which tailor-make office furniture to suit the clients' needs, working from the design of the furniture to the building to the upholstery.

Danny Burshine, an architect and interior designer, commissioned the furniture company to custom-make chairs for the new Heichal Mordechai synagogue he was designing in Herzliya Pituah. He wanted something different: seats that would be comfortable yet suit the specific needs of a synagogue.

What they came up with was a chair based on those plush semi-reclining movie-theater seats, modified to suit synagogue purposes. "Movie seats are designed so that people look up, and will be comfortable," says Burshine. About the modifications, he adds, "we wanted comfortable seats, but we don't want people to fall asleep. We just want them to feel comfortable praying for a long time."

Like movie-theater seats, the chairs have plush cushioning for the seat and the back, but unlike movie-



Tzora's orthopedic chairs have plush cushioning for the seat and the back while the back of the chair is made of mahogany. (Haroch Grinitsky)

theater seats, the back of the chair is made of mahogany. "The wood was for the beauty a synagogue deserves," says Burshine, "and so that the people in the rows behind wouldn't scuff the upholstery of the seat in front of them."

They got down to the nuts and bolts of what people need in a synagogue. For example, people who get annoyed at the protruding piece of wood - used as a siddur stand - on the chairs of the preceding row will be pleased with the new chairs where the siddur stand is embedded

in the back, like airplane-seat trays for food. Other special features include the hollow armrests to hold siddurim, tallies, and goodies like candy bags with which to entertain the restless kids.

A lot more factors go into designing a synagogue than one might think (if one thinks about it at all). Chaim Klein, the head of the carpentry at Kibbutz Lavi which makes traditional shul furniture for over 1,700 shuls around the world from Australia to Andorra, says that first and foremost, shul furniture must be functional: "People have to get up and sit down, go through the rows to go up to the ark, but be close enough to the row in front so that they can read from their siddur," he explained.



Women's suits, like this one by Max Mara, have become popular as more women assume executive roles in the workplace.

Well suited

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

SUITS are in the forefront of fall fashions, with pants suits carrying more thrust than skirts with jackets. Very businesslike, the premier choices are basic black, charcoal gray, café au lait, midnight blue, banker's stripes and herringbone tweeds.

The new fashion statements are in line with more women assuming executive roles in the workplace. The clothes they wear send out a clear signal that they want the respect which their positions merit. They do not want to be whistle bait, nor do they want to look too feminine: in softly cut maxiskirts. They want everyone to know who's calling the shots, and they're choosing clothes with an assertive image.

The pants are straight but not tight, and the jackets, though lean, are not clinging. Those women executives who still prefer skirts to pants are opting for mild and knee-grazing lengths to ensure that the attention of male colleagues will not be diverted by their legs.

Black, relieved by white, and occasionally by silver and other metallics, is also the strong color for both casual and formal wear.

Outside of the conference room, styles run the gamut from classic minimalism to minimal fabric. The more revealing outfits feature see-through bodices and sleeves on both blouses and dresses, and in more casual creations, focus on navel exposure in cropped tops and skin tight drop-waisted pants.

Skirt lengths also take a hike, often to the extent of indecency (if there is still such a thing). For the classically inclined, ensemble dressing has resurfaced with tie-front, trench and club coats paired with slim-fitting, high-necked sleeveless dresses. These totally understated dresses are an absolute must for the fall/winter wardrobe. They are flattering to almost everyone, look great with or without jewelry and serve as an important base for endless variety as they can easily be paired with shawls, capes, cardigans, jackets and coats. Orthodox women will probably wear them over ribbed turtleneck sweaters.

Canadian vodka that's at the tip of an iceberg

EXPORTING Canadian vodka to Russia? Sure enough, one shipment has been sent, and Ron Stamp hopes it's only the tip of the iceberg. Literally.

Stamp is managing director of Canadian Iceberg Vodka, formed last year to produce vodka made with water from the icebergs that float past Newfoundland's coast each spring and summer.

The water, melted aboard an iceberging-catcher, is probably the purest in the world and just about the oldest, according to Stamp. He says the bergs are at least 12,000 years old.

Production began last October at a plant run by Newfoundland's liquor authority, with alcohol and water supplied by Stamp's company. He projects an output of 30,000 twelve-bottle cases for the first year of operation.

The alcohol comes from corn grown in Ontario, but the water is produced aboard a 67-meter tanker equipped with a crane-like device on the front that can bite into an iceberg.

The berg is hoisted over the forward deck and dropped into a crushing machine. The crushed ice is then shifted into a melting tank; about 1 million liters of water can be stored on board.

Stamp, 42, who used to work in Newfoundland's most famous industry - the fish business - first thought about exploiting icebergs after reading about a never-realized proposal to tow huge icebergs to Saudi Arabia to be melted into water. "Unless God is your cousin, you aren't getting an iceberg to Saudi Arabia no matter what," Stamp

said. "So I thought, 'Why not break them up and melt them here?'"

Stamp initially wanted to produce bottled drinking water from the bergs, but that project required more capital. So he started with the vodka production, because manufacturing facilities were provided by the provincial liquor corporation.

Canadian Iceberg Vodka already has made its first splash in Russia, exporting 15,000 bottles to the Black Sea city of Odessa. Stamp finds it ironic that this export to the heartland of vodka occurs at a time when Newfoundland fish plants, crippled by the collapse of local cod stocks, have been forced to import Russian codfish.

Stamp isn't sure yet how big the Russian demand for icebergs vodka will be, but he is hopeful. "For some of the moneyed people there, it's a bit of a status symbol to have Western goods," he said.

In Canada, the new vodka is being sold at roughly the same price as Smirnoff and Absolut, even though Stamp says it costs somewhat more to produce.

In September, a separately organized company will begin producing icebergs water. Stamp is vice president for sales of that firm. He hopes the drinking water will catch fire among coosumers concerned about product purity.

Spinoff products are likely, he said: icebergs beer and icebergs iced tea. And even just plain ice cubes - two shipments of cubes already have been sent to Japan and South Korea, aimed in part at drinkers of premium Scotch who don't want to dilute their drinks with run-of-the-mill ice. (AP)

Horseradish heaven

THE eve of Rosh Hashana was once a time of tears for women like Morris Gold's mother and grandmother. Rosh Hashana meant gefilte fish, and gefilte fish meant horseradish - the powerful condiment that stings the eyes and clears the sinuses.

Gold, 77, recalls his grandmother "sitting on a milk crate by the window of our Brooklyn apartment, peeling 'beets' and his mother nearby cutting up horseradish. Both of them would be crying.

Housewives (and husbands) at the turn of the 21st century need not cry over horseradish anymore - mostly because of the Gold family, by far America's largest purveyors of bottled horseradish. "We'll do the crying for you," proclaims Morris Gold.

Gold's began in 1932 with Morris's father Hyman, an immigrant from Poland. After a cousin who grated vegetables in front of a storefront in the borough of Brooklyn became embroiled in a dispute with his landlord and was tossed into jail, Hyman bailed him out and wound up with the discarded grinder. He took it home in wife Tillie and, from their apartment, they decided to grind horseradish and sell it on the streets of Brooklyn.

"My father went out in the neighborhood and would take orders for three jars here and four jars there and we kids would deliver them by bicycle," recalls Morris, who built the business to what it is today with brothers Manny and Herb.

"One time I gave away an extra bottle after selling a case [24 bottles] and my father yelled at me because that was the profit, that 25th jar. After all, this was in the middle of the Great Depression."

Later came the special jars, modern machinery and a main production plant in Brooklyn, which functioned from 1956 to 1994.

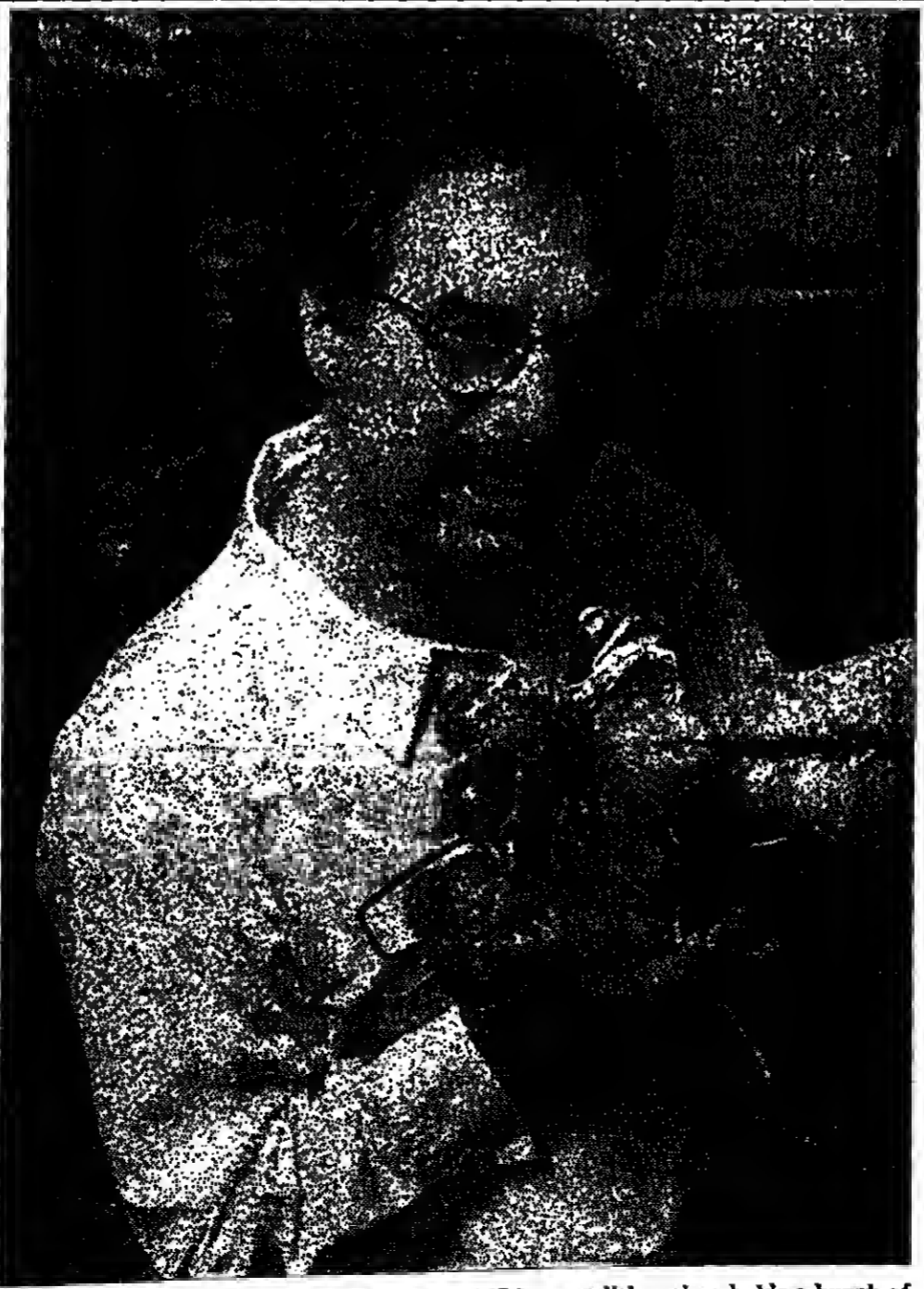
Now, Gold's has accounts in virtually every US state (Hawaii, yes; Alaska, no). He also sends horseradish to Israel, England, Australia, Brazil, South Africa and Russia.

Now reaching into a fifth generation of Gold's, the privately held firm estimates its share of the US market at about 70 percent, with annual sales between \$5m and \$20m.

"Fresh, fresh, fresh," my father has always preached to me, "Morris's son Marc says over the dio of machinery in the company's Long Island plant, where 34,000 cilograms of horseradish roots are ground and bottled each day. "That's the key to our success."

A combination of the grated horseradish root with vinegar and salt (with beets for the less-strong, red version) is all there is to the mixture that has been called everything from magic elixir to aphrodisiac.

"People are uneducated about horseradish," explains Marc, 48, who runs the business with brother Steve and cousins Neil and Howard, all



Marc Gold, co-owner of Gold's, the leading US horseradish maker, holds a bunch of horseradish roots, the source of his firm's main product at its Hempstead plant. (AP)

of whom have had their teenage daughters working summers at the plant for the last couple of years. "Since you can enjoy it on virtually any type of food, the uses for it are unlimited."

Though mostly known for use around Rosh Hashana and Pessah, horseradish also has strong sales for Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving. "Horseradish is by no means just a Jewish item," adds Marc, a true horseradish evangelist.

Named for "galloping roots" which grew in the wilds of Eastern Europe, horseradish comes mostly from the Midwest and Eastern Canada. The gnarled roots are shipped to Gold's in burlap sacks or 585-kilogram wrapped pallets and are kept in a storage room at 1 degree Celsius.

Ramat Hasharon couple encounters an 'electrifying' saga

FOR over 30 years, Mr. and Mrs. R. have been living at the same Ramat Hasharon address. They have always paid their electricity bills on time. Their last November/December bill for NIS 139.31, was no exception. Imagine their horror, then, upon receiving a corrected bill for the above for NIS 3,236.10!

Mr. R. promptly took himself over to the Ra'anana office of the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) listed at the head of the bill. There, he was informed that his meter had not been read for three years. During this time, he was told, his electricity consumption had been higher than what he'd been paying.

"Perhaps the meter is defective," suggested Mr. R. But he was assured that the meter - installed in 1961 by the Palestine Electric Corp. - was in tip-top shape. Nevertheless, he insisted upon having the equipment examined.

When two IEC technicians finally arrived at his home (after several persistent phone calls from Mr. R.), they diagnosed the meter as "accurate." Mr. R. then returned to Ra'anana to work out a lenient payment arrangement for the huge sum. There, he was told that he could pay in three installments: the first immediately, and the second and third post-dated a month and two months hence. Upon returning home, Mr. R. mailed the checks.

When his next bill arrived, Mr. R. discovered a NIS 40 charge for his post-dated check. "My overdraft cost," he subsequently wrote to the IEC Ombudsman, "would have been less."

On May 27, Mr. R. received a hand-written notice from the IEC confirming that his meter was in fact defective, due to lightning. Enclosed was an additional bill for NIS 2,477.02, and a warning that his electricity would be shut off if he failed to pay this sum by May 28 - the following day.

On May 28, Mr. R. tried several times, unsuccessfully, to reach Mr. Cohen (the name on the hand-written notice) at the IEC accounts department in Ra'anana. On May 29, election day, the company was closed. On May 30, Mr. R. drove

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

to Ra'anana to confront Mr. Cohen. But Mr. Cohen was on reserve duty for the day.

The frustrated Mr. R. finally wrote a detailed letter of complaint to the IEC, demanding exemption from the last charge. After all, if it weren't for his insistence on having the meter checked, the corporation would have gone on losing revenue. Furthermore, he feels that it was negligence on the part of the IEC not to have read his meter for three years.

The IEC responded to Mr. R. as follows:
1. Due to the indoor location of your meter, attempts at reading your coconsumption were unsuccessful for a long period of time.

2. In December 1995 - a regular reading was performed - according to which a new calculation was made for your actual consumption [as opposed to that for which you were charged on the basis of previous estimates]. The bill you received for NIS 3,236.10 constituted the sum you owed us in the difference. By the way, every electricity bill ... lists "type of reading" to enable the customer to know whether the meter was actually read or whether an estimate was made ... the customer can thus compare the estimate on his bill to the reading on his meter.

If there are major discrepancies [between the two], the customer can inform the [electric] company accordingly.

3. ...the regional IEC office in Ra'anana has a toll-free "telemeter" number for phoning in meter-readings 24 hours a day; 177-022-3820 ... to be performed every even-numbered month, between the 10th and 15th of the month.

4. ...lighting caused one of the phases in your home to burnout, resulting in your having been charged for only 2/3 of your actual consumption... (In spite of the fact that the new meter installed indicates a higher consumption rate), the IEC office in your area has decided to exempt you from payment of the difference for the period during which the original meter did not register full consumption.

5. ...the NIS 40 charge for post-dated payments constitutes interest...

Mr. R.'s "electrifying" saga should serve as a lesson. Compare your estimates to your actual consumption. Otherwise, you may end up getting stuck having to come up with a wad of cash to cover back payments over long periods of time. Phone the regional IEC headquarters in your region for details of how to offer your reading.

Important notice: there is no truth to the rumor which has been circulating about having to pay double or triple for a phonecall dialed without the extra digit!

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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The unequal burden

AN epidemic that has plagued Israel in recent years but which received little or no attention has now come out into the open. Suddenly, even the IDF general staff is willing to admit what has for a long time been increasingly obvious to just about everyone in the country: rotation to serve in the reserves has dropped.

Evading reserve duty and, in some cases even compulsory military service, is now regarded in many circles as respectable. As a result, it may soon be a struggle to gather enough reservists to field the minimal amount of soldiers needed for some units. The danger this potentially poses for a country living in the same neighborhood as Iraq and Syria goes without saying.

The statistics on the issue, some of them only recently made public, confirm what many sensed about the attitude toward reserve duty. A poll conducted by the IDF's behavioral science branch reveals that 50 percent of Israeli men would not show up for reserve duty if they were not forced to do so.

Tens of thousands of reservists are putting this into practice by finding ways to evade service, some by finding numerous excuses to keep them away each year and others by persuading the military to lower their medical profiles so they are permanently removed from the reserve force. There are apparently 15 percent more men leaving the reserves each year than entering it. Of those remaining in the potential reserve pool, only some 16.5 percent carry most of the burden of active reserve duty.

The forum of reserve brigade and battalion commanders established on Tuesday to combat the drop in motivation is a welcome addition to the other public figures who are devoting time and effort to deal with this problem. The IDF's recent decision to establish a desk, headed by a major-general, to attempt to turn back the trend among young soldiers is a similarly positive step. The willingness to recognize a problem is always a first step to correcting it. But it is not clear how effective these bodies can be in isolation.

The reasons for large-scale shifts in public values and attitudes are extremely complex and probably never fully understood. Some of the causes that have been suggested include the fact that Israel hasn't been faced with an existential threat since the Yom Kippur War. An entire generation of men in their twenties and thirties has been raised with the idea of the army being no more than an unpleasant "infada" police force. And the idea propagated in some circles that Middle East peace agreements will make war obsolete has undoubtedly contributed to

public attitudes toward military service.

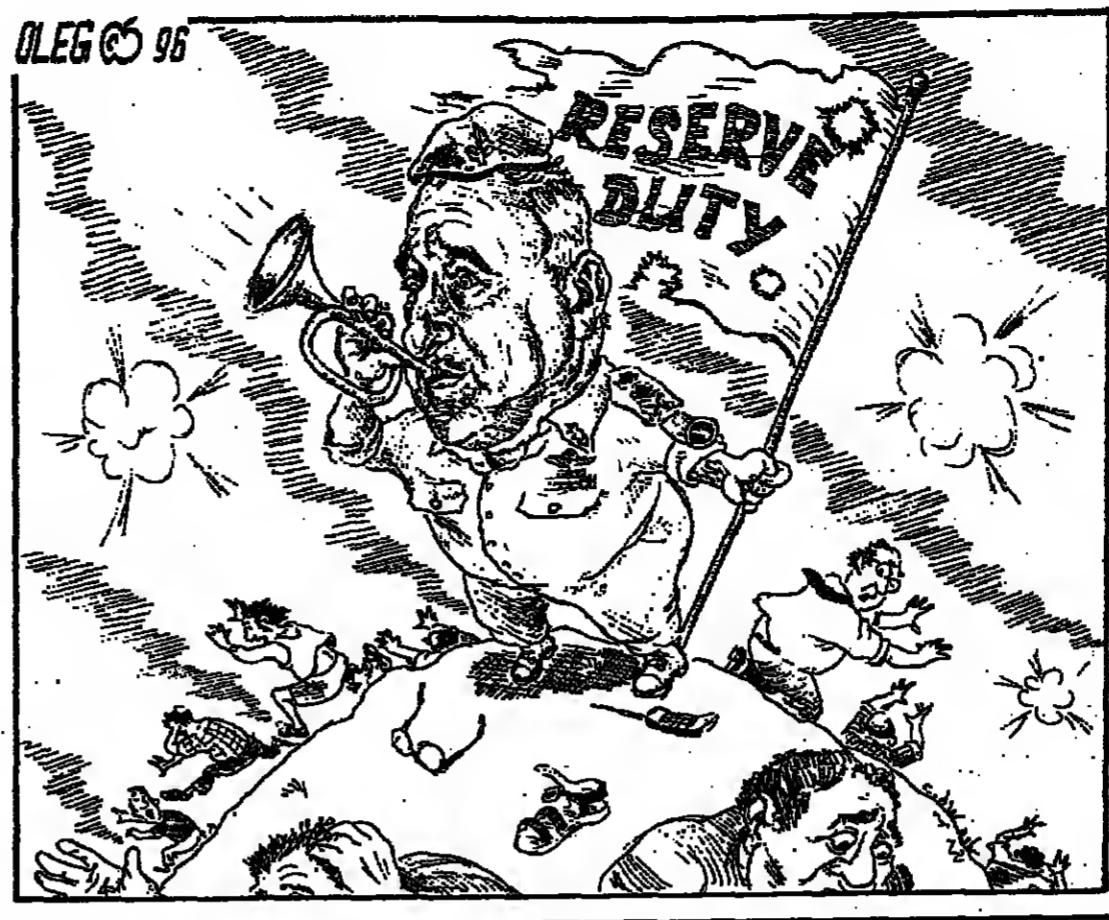
Others claim that the drop in motivation is a natural process in a society that is increasingly cultivating individualistic values and rejecting its socialist past. Another opinion, pointing to the increasingly strong sense of motivation and volunteerism exhibited in the army by soldiers from a national-religious background, blames the secular educational system for teaching "post-Zionism" in place of more traditional lessons. A virtual platoon of academic experts in a variety of disciplines could debate the issue, but it is unlikely they could propose any practical suggestions for reversing deep social trends.

However, even if the underlying causes prove difficult to deal with, some of the more immediate and obvious problems can and should be corrected. To begin, the IDF itself could start by clearing up its own house.

It has been an open secret for at least a decade that an individual who truly wants to evade service, or serve in a non-combat role, can find ways of doing so, either by insisting that his profile be lowered or regularly proffering flimsy excuses for escaping his duties. The military, operating under the theory that a soldier lacking motivation but who is forced to serve is more trouble than he is worth, quietly cooperated with such individuals. This has now come back to haunt the army as the increasingly unfair burden on those who do their reserve duty has fed resentment and lowered general motivation.

The high salaries paid to career officers, compared with the sacrifices asked of reservists, has also affected attitudes, as have the sheer inefficiencies and bureaucratic heaviness exhibited by the IDF. The number of new recruits entering the army has increased tremendously in recent years, yet structural changes taking advantage of these increases proceed at a glacial pace. Fair burden-sharing would go a long way to repairing the military's image.

For many years the army has been considered a disorganized, uncaring and unnecessarily unpleasant place to be, almost as a fact of nature. But it doesn't have to be that way. Army service will never be a frolic at a resort, but the citizens from whom so much is asked will appreciate being honestly told, "Gentlemen, we have difficult tasks to perform which may not always be pleasant, but we will make every effort to try to get them done as painlessly and fairly as possible." By adopting such an approach, the IDF might discover that even in an individualistic society, a sense of shared accomplishment can be attained from sharing in reserve duty.



Saddam's master plan

URI DAN
 DENNIS EISENBERG

TOGETHER with his 30-year-old younger son Qusay Saddam Hussein has spent the last 18 months plotting to regain control of the Kurdish northern areas of Iraq and at the same time deal US President Bill Clinton a massive diplomatic defeat.

The third prong of his initiative was to warn of an attempt by his arch-foes, the mullahs of Teheran, to bring him in to his knees by playing their "Kurdish card."

Saddam's secret weapon was to use that underestimated younger son of his. Since the Iraqi ruler distrusts his official heir, his firstborn Uday, he has concentrated all eight of his police and internal security services in Qusay's hands.

Quietly and with ruthless determination, Qusay unraveled the CIA plan to penetrate Iraq by planting a crack squad of US agents among the Kurds. He also revealed that members of the elite 40,000-strong Saddam Fedayeen Unit had been bribed by the CIA to assassinate his father.

Ruthlessly the Iraqi dictator arrested dozens of these plotters, tortured them and massacred those who survived brutalities such as being forced to rape each other. Those no longer able to obey were slowly mutilated before dying.

The whole episode was a blow to Qusay's big brother Uday, who was commander of the Fedayeen.

The above information was revealed in this column in London by a French diplomatic source, who added: "The CIA should have understood what Saddam was up to from the bombing at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia a couple of months ago.

"Everyone immediately jumped to the conclusion that the Iranians were behind the terrorist attack on the American base. Our own information was that Saddam sent the explosive to his own agents [in Saudi Arabia] via his staging post in North Yemen.

"There were smiles in Baghdad when all the accusing fingers pointed toward Teheran," said the diplomat. He was quoting French sources who deal with Saddam in Baghdad.

The behavior of the Saudi royal family, the diplomat went on to say, was a clear signal of what was going on in the background. "The Saudis refused to cooperate with the dozens of FBI specialists flown to investigate the bombing. They even gave the FBI deliberately misleading information about Iranian conspiracies to attack all US forces in the Gulf region."

The reason for this was clear, we were told. The Saudis see Iran as their major threat in the Middle

East. So they wanted the mullahs blamed.

They fear that the US plan is to kill Saddam Hussein. Then, when in the ensuing chaos the country splits up, Iran would get the opportunity to seize part of it — the area covering the major oil reserves. This is the reason the Iranians have been giving financial and weapons support to the PUK Kurdish faction there as a step in increasing its influence in Iraq.

At the same time Iraqi diplomats have been making a discreet but determined effort during the past year both in the Middle East and Europe to undermine the allied coalition established in 1991 by the US to launch the massive onslaught against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

THE BAIT dangled in Europe was the promise of vast deals with European industrialists once the oil embargo against Baghdad was lifted.

"The most enthusiastic client proved to be the French," we were told by a British intelligence source in London. "The French are convinced that the Anglo-Saxons don't understand the Arab mentality. And the mouth-watering profits in store for them in Iraq have even caused them to agree to supply material and know-how to enable Saddam to achieve his dream of acquiring atomic weapons."

"The French are convinced that Iraq today has a weak leadership that wouldn't have the nerve to destroy another French-supplied atomic reactor, as it did 15 years ago," Tycoons and financiers from Paris have thus been very active in Baghdad for the past two years.

It didn't take very much pressure from Tehran to persuade the French to express vigorous opposition to President Clinton's move to punish Saddam Hussein. They even refused the US request that they join the broadened air patrols exclusion area in the south of the country. The French also tried to per-

suade other European powers to attack the US decision to interfere with the "national sovereignty" of another country (the French way of describing the Clinton decision to send American missiles to destroy some Iraq radar sites).

To make absolutely sure the US would be neutralized, Saddam, via Qusay's security chiefs, employed Britain's "divide and rule" policy regarding the Kurds. He bribed Massoud Barazani, leader of the Kurdish KDP group, to be his ally in invading and conquering the entire Kurdish area of the country.

Two days ago the Saddam-equipped KDP army conquered the major town of Suleimaniyah, routing all Kurdish opposition, who fled for safety to Iran. To complete Saddam's triumph the entire CIA operation in the country was wiped out. US agents fled in helicopters. Their local operatives betrayed to Qusay months ago were arrested and slaughtered.

Saddam's triumph was total.

"The Kurds under Barazani will be given a certain amount of autonomy for a while," said the British security official. "But they have sealed their own fate. In a year there will be a total takeover by Saddam and the Kurds' dream of independence will vanish like a desert mirage. Iran's Kurdish ally, the PUK, has been wiped out."

A Kurdish source in London told us yesterday: "It's a disaster for the Kurds. Saddam will swallow our entire nation within a year."

"Saddam's greatest triumph," the British official told us, "is that the Desert Storm alliance Clinton inherited from George Bush has collapsed ignominiously. Only Britain and Israel have stood by the US loyally.

"Clinton may claim that he has taught Saddam a lesson he will never forget. But the whole operation was a US failure and, above all, a humiliation for the CIA."

Added the British official wistfully: "If only the Israelis' effort to kill Saddam with a crack squad using advanced rocketry had been put into operation. We had reports that the trial run failed because of carelessness at their Tze'elim base three years ago.

"They might bitterly regret not putting the project into operation for Saddam Hussein is riding high now. His ambitions are clearly as maniacal as ever, particularly with the French once more backing him to the hilt."

The writers are authors of *The Mosaic: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.*

The Iraqi dictator mocks Clinton for a loser as he slowly swallows up the Kurds

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GENERAL AIR OF UNREALITY

Sir, — If Larry Derfner's interview with Professor Shlomo Ben-Ami ("Back to the vision thing," *Money*, August 28) is meant to be a serious exposition of the "neo-social-democratic" point of view, then the conservative and free-market school has very little to worry about. The interview is replete with contradiction, lack of understanding and plain foolishness.

Although the interview is basically polemical, some specific points are made that need to be addressed.

1. The capital gains tax. Ben-Ami favors a capital gains tax. At present some capital gains are taxed, some of them at full individual tax rates (up to 50 percent), and some are not. I assume that Ben-Ami wants to tax gains on the stock market, which are now tax-free for most individual investors, but not for companies and those who buy and sell shares in the way of business.

The value of a share at any given time reflects the past performance (past profits) of the company in question and the public's expectations of future performance (future profits). On both, income tax is paid in full. The share price reflects the value of the company after taxes are paid. Taxing the increase in value of shares when they are transferred from one investor to another is double taxation of the same basic income.

To see taxation of stock markets as the righting of some terrible social injustice is to misunderstand the source of economic wealth. Economic wealth is created (and taxed) in the conduct of business and not in the transfer of ownership.

Sir, — Mr. Arafat's condemnation of Israel and the Netanyahu government and his statements about a "declaration of war" should actually come as no surprise, dangerous though his statements may be. It has less to do with Mr. Netanyahu's accession to the Prime Minister's Office than it does with Mr. Arafat's failure to deliver to his people what he promised — a better economy, a better way of life, and a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He has failed miserably on all counts, from all reports, and he will

continue to fail.

On the last point, whether the government of Israel is headed by Mr. Peres or Mr. Netanyahu, the Israeli people will never agree to give up Jerusalem. And this is the key to the errors of the former Rabin/Peres governments. By even agreeing to discuss Jerusalem, it allowed Arafat to continuously promise his people what even he had to know he couldn't deliver — and this meant the whole process was doomed from the outset. Had the Labor government refused to have

the taxpayer's contribution to this project is \$600 million will buy 1,500 new jobs, or \$400,000 per job. According to statistics of the Bank of Israel and the Productivity Institute, the average investment in the business sector in Israel is \$60-70,000 per job. If the same \$600 million were invested in Israeli industry generally, it would generate almost 10,000 jobs, rather than 1,500.

The grants to capital investment are in fact a direct subsidy of capital and of investors, and might expect Ben-Ami to be strongly and unequivocally against them. Instead, he wants to continue these programs and even opposes a reduction of the grants from 34% to 20% of total investment.

The key to the contradiction between Prof. Ben-Ami's neo-social-democratic outlook and his position on specific economic points can be found in his criticism of the Labor Party. He says, quite correctly, that the Labor Party "had become elitist, both culturally and economically. Labor's entire milieu came to be dominated in recent years by the business community and the affluent population." Unfortunately, in his stand on economic issues, Ben-Ami is at one with the Labor Party.

When he says, finally, that the state is not a bad thing (most people in the world think the state is at best a necessary evil) we recognize the Labor Party's traditional outlook — Big Business, Big Labor and Big Government. In short, the corporate state.

JACK MENES
 Jerusalem.

Jerusalem available for discussion. Arafat would not have been able to make promises he couldn't possibly have kept. It might have made it more difficult for him in the beginning, but it would have made a peaceful end more possible. And now, the only thing he feels is left to him is threats of violence, at least some of which will be carried out — against Jews here in Israel, and possibly abroad as well.

SUSAN CHASIN
 Gan Yavne.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



When man's best friend is built like this, you don't have to worry about enemies. (Aliza Auerbach)

POSTSCRIPTS

A GRUMPY old man left \$70,000 in his will to five store clerks who befriended him during his daily trips to their supermarket in Marietta, Georgia.

"He came in one time with one sock on, one sock off," recalled Jeannette Peeks, a clerk at the store where Dr. James Glenn Dudley, 85, met friends each morning for breakfast.

"He was sort of a mean old man, and I liked him for it," Peeks said. "Like, he told me I was too fat. He was kind of bossy, very particular about things."

Some time after Dudley died, a man arrived at the store and handed Peeks and three co-workers checks for \$10,000 each. Jesse Gray, who carried his groceries, inherited \$30,000.

TWO SWEDISH cats caused \$45,000 worth of damage after flooding their owner's house while locked up in the bathroom.

Crestfallen owner Roger Sjoberg said he had come home to find the house flooded and two frightened cats sitting on the shower taps.

"We normally lock them up in the bathroom to stop them wrecking the place while we're out," he said.

People panic

GWYNNE DYER

CITIES are monsters and bad for your health.

They are impersonal and alienating.

And the bigger they get, the worse they are.

That is what the Habitat II Conference on Human Settlements held recently in Istanbul implied.

But it's nonsense.

The conference, sponsored by the United Nations, was based on a report produced by the UN Development and Environment Programs, the World Bank and the World Resources Institute.

At the beginning of this century, the report's authors point out, only five percent of the world's people lived in cities of over 100,000.

In a single century we have completely reversed that situation. Forty-five percent of the world's people now live in big cities. In Istanbul's heyday, it was one of only two cities on the planet that reached a million people. By 2015, the world will contain around 560 cities with more than a million people, and dozens with over 10 million.

The UN report is studded with panicky factsoids that, on closer inspection, turn out to be no cause for panic.

For example, we are told that soon 80 percent of the world's big-city dwellers will live in "Third World" countries. But if the rest of the world is going to follow a path of economic development anything like that once traveled by the West, what else would you expect? The "Third World" is where 80 percent of the world's people live.

Cities are where almost all innovation happens, because they, and only they, contain a critical mass of people with different experiences and differing perspectives. Their populations are generally better-educated and healthier than those of the rural areas around them, because it is easier to provide services to concentrated groups of people. So why are cities seen as the problem, not the solution?

One reason is that when cities grow fast, huge slums and even street-sleepers proliferate. It looks horrifying, and it feels hopeless.

But this is generally a transitional phenomenon: visit the areas that were squatter settlements 30 years ago in Istanbul, or Manila, or Rio, and you will find

Why the scare about cities? They're the best places to be

that most of the dwellings have been steadily upgraded until they provide decent shelter. In many older areas, the residents now have water, electricity, and even sewers — while raw new shantytowns go on springing up around them. This is how cities have always grown.

THE OTHER reason is a panic about sheer numbers. "Megacities" of 20-million-plus proliferating across what used to be the Third World sound rather frightening: Charles Dickens roasts Blade Runner.

And this image persists even though the world's biggest city, Tokyo, at 24 million, is also its most orderly.

Somewhat, nobody believes that Jakarta or Shanghai or Sao Paulo can achieve the same result when they reach a similar size, but why not? They are pretty orderly now. And hardly anybody understands that this is not runaway, limitless growth. There is a ceiling.

In small countries, up to a third of the population may wind up in the national metropolis: Stockholm, Athens, Auckland. In compact middle-sized countries like Japan, France, South Africa or Britain, the biggest city roasts amount to 15 or 20 percent of the population, but rarely more. And in very large countries like the US, Russia, India and China, the biggest city never exceeds five-10 percent of the population.

In rapidly developing parts of the world, many new mega-cities are now growing rapidly toward that limit, just as London, New York, and Tokyo did during their own growth spurts. But then they will stop — and shortly afterwards, around 2040, global population growth will probably coast to a halt around the 10 billion mark.

So many people and so much consumption roay put intolerable stresses on the natural environment, but don't blame the cities.

And don't worry too much about them either. They are, on the whole, the best-run parts of the planet.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist.

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Bow out of the tango

DEAR Ruthie, My younger brother went into the family business, while I pursued a career as an artist, with very little income from my profession. I receive a hefty income from a trust set up for me by my father. My problem is my brother. We've always had problems getting along, but now that he's handling my money, it's much worse. Every time I need cash, I am forced to ask him for it. This enables him to lecture me on how irresponsible I am. I admit that he never denies me what is rightfully mine, but the power he has over me has gone to his head. When I confronted him, he said I was welcome to handle my own money, and leave him out of it. The trouble is that I have no head for investments, so I guess I'm stuck in this situation.

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

How can I get him to stop treating me like a child?

Sizzling Sister
Somewhere in the USA

The way to "get" him to stop treating you in a manner you do not accept, is to bow out of the tango which is entangling the two of you. In this case, there seem to be two "dances" in which you and your brother are partners: the old "sibling salsa," and the more recent "power polka" - the steps of which you learned when your little brother became your "big brother" - financially speaking. As long as you allow his jobs at your alleged irresponsibility to drive you wild, you will continue to be driven wild, just as he will continue to lecture. And as long as you lean on his entrepreneurial expertise for your financial security, you will remain in an "inferior" position, where money is concerned. The choice to leave your income in your brother's hands can be based on prudence, if the "pros" of this option outweigh the "cons." But you may have to learn to swallow the slights with a bit more emotional distance.

Dear Ruthie,
When it is appropriate to introduce my nine-year-old daughter to a man I've been dating? I've been extremely careful only to see him when my daughter is with her father, but there comes a point at which this behavior is deceptive on my part. On the other hand, I wouldn't want her to grow attached to someone,

and then have to go through another breakup.
In Dilemma about Dating
Tel Aviv area

Dear Dater-in-Dilemma,
The point at which introducing your daughter to your date becomes appropriate depends on the degree to which you discuss this side of your life with her. It is impossible to guarantee sparing her "another break-up." It is possible, however, to estimate your feelings for a particular man at a given time. The point at which such feelings seem to you to be "serious" constitutes the appropriate time for introductions, as long as you let your daughter ask you questions and voice any apprehensions she may have.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il



Harvard Professor Daniel J. Goldhagen holding a copy of his book 'Hitler's Willing Executioners' for a TV interview in Hamburg last Wednesday.

Prohibition for the designated driver

DANIEL J. CHALFEN

INHALE deeply and then blow fiercely into the "breathalyzer" - a balloon crudely measuring the alcoholic consumption of the participant. This is out, as you might expect, a police stop-check for drunken drivers, but an innovative campaign against drinking and driving launched by the Organization for Road Safety and the Ministry of Transport.

From the evening through to the early hours of the morning, teams of volunteers, clad in the distinctive "Im shotim, lo nahagim, bishvil zeh, yesh haverim" (if you're drinking, don't drive. That's what friends are for) T-shirts, scour the streets for crowds of boozing revelers.

Working in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and Beersheba, volunteers do not check the age of the drinkers, just the safety of the drivers. Approaching a crowd, they ask who the designated driver is, and if he or she has been drinking.

They band the driver car stick-



draw an offender's license on the spot; a court can withdraw the license for up to two years; six points can be incurred, as can a NIS 10,000 fine.

And, most innovatively, with this information is handed a badge entitling the recipient - the designated driver - to enter a prize draw, at a stall manned by volunteers to the town center. Mango portable telephones amongst the various prizes, and a T-shirt for everyone, seem to be a good incentive for keeping drivers sober.

"Thousands of people have already participated," claims Tali, a volunteer in Jerusalem's Russian Compound. "As long as the participant is the driver and is within the legal alcohol limit, he or she can win a prize."

The driver can even be driving someone else's car. "If the boy drinks," says Tali, another volunteer, "his girlfriend can drive his car. This is a very good and safe option."

And a word of advice for those who win the cellular phooze: Don't talk and drive!

Deng's birthplace doesn't cash in

A newly paved road running through the one-story village of drab brick and mud buildings is Paifang's only sign of government largesse. "Deng Xiaoping and the leaders of the central government don't know how poor we people are," said Yang Zetian. He, his wife and 13-year-old daughter get by farming one-eighth of a hectare (a third of an acre) of corn, rice and vegetables.

Paifang's neglect seems unnatural in China where connections are supreme. To the battle for official favors, Paifang should win hands down: It's the birthplace of Deng Xiaoping, the architect of China's successful economic reforms.

As Deng turned an ailing 92 in Beijing last month, his hometown 1,400 kilometers away remains a backwater in the isolated, over-cultivated hills of central Sichuan province. The surrounding area shows only faint stirrings of the economic vitality his reforms have brought to other parts of China. For the people of Paifang (pronounced pie-fang'), frustration over their impoverishment is mixed with admiration for the village's favorite son. "It's not fair. This place hasn't changed in years. Only the road has changed," said Deng Yuanguang, who farms a plot half the size of Yang's.

Their plight is common in the village of 2,000 people: Its 400 families on average bring in about 1,000 yuan (\$120) a year each, well below the government-set poverty line. Farmer Deng, no relation to the senior leader, admits that life has improved under the 18-years of market-oriented reforms. Gone are the days when farmers were told what to plant and when. They can now sell vegetables from household plots in the region's administrative capital,



Deng Xiaoping rejected the cult of personality that surrounded Mao.

and opened in 1982, the museum draws about 400 to 500 visitors a day, many from Sichuan. They take pictures in front of the white-washed mud stucco and wood-beam home and view the photos of Deng as a student in France, fighting the Japanese and Nationalists in China and climbing the ranks of the Communist Party. Outside, villagers sell pins, medallions and photographs of Deng - one of the few places such items can be found. "You can't say it's 'worship' but most common people are really grateful for what he's done," said Nie Er, a 28-year-old telephone line operator from Huayun, a small city 30 kilometers (20 miles) to the south.

Deng left Paifang for school in Chungking in 1918 and then went to France two years later and never came back to the village. His only surviving relative still living in the village is Dan Weoquan, son of Deng's mother's sister.

Deng rejected the cult of personality his predecessor, Mao Tse-tung, encouraged. He supported setting up the museum as long as "his achievements were not exaggerated," said curator Chen Xiansong.

Since he emerged as paramount leader in 1978, Deng has preferred to exercise power from behind the scenes. He has remained China's most influential political figure despite having relinquished his last official title in 1990. As his health has declined, signs of political eclipse have grown more evident in the past year. Two family members - second son Deng Zhifang and niece Ding Peng - have separately been tainted by accusations of corruption in firms they run or are associated with. Son-in-law He Ping has been under pressure to step down as head of China's premier arms trader, Poly

Technologies, after U.S. law enforcement officials accused it of trying to smuggle AK-47s to the United States. Eldest son Deng Pufang sparked rumors that his father was on his deathbed in July. Pufang defended Deng's legacy from critics on the party's right and the left in a stinging speech to the Chinese Federation of the Disabled. After refusing to comment on the rumors for nearly a week, the Foreign Ministry stated Deng was well and called the rumors groundless.

Whatever Deng's political fortunes, villagers in Paifang would like him to visit and see how things have changed. They also bristle at the suggestion Deng should have turned Paifang into the lucrative combination tourist trap-revolutionary pilgrimage site Mao's hometown of Shaohan.

Hunan province, has become. "That's a type of selfishness," said Yang Xiaoqiong, a 20-plus woman who works on her family's farm. "The world wouldn't work so well if everyone was so selfish."

'Most Germans didn't object'

HENNECKE Kardel, who fought in Hitler's army, just shook his head as he stepped out of a theater that stands where the city's Jews once were herded together and deported to their deaths.

Kardel had just listened to historian Daniel J. Goldhagen defend his view that most Germans during Hitler's time had no objection to mass executions of Jews.

"It's wrong to say that most Germans wanted Jews to be killed," said the 75-year-old Kardel, who added he is not antisemitic.

Goldhagen, a Harvard University political scientist, spent three hours inside the Kammerspiele theater last Wednesday night defending his controversial - and in Germany, best-selling - book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. The debate with five German experts was Goldhagen's first face-to-face showdown with German critics who accuse him of oversimplifying history.

Goldhagen, the son of a Holocaust survivor, did not budge from the argument he lays out in his book: The Holocaust grew from an "eliminationist anti-semitism" that pervaded Germany and did not exist in other countries. "I wrote the arguments in a forceful way, and I think I'm right," Goldhagen said.

In his book, Goldhagen tells of German civilian police battalions that rounded up helpless Jewish men, women and children and murdered them en masse.

Goldhagen claims the police officers were "ordinary Germans," and therefore indicative of an anti-semitic bloodlust that existed in the whole of German society.

To many Germans, that's insulting. To some, it comes close to anti-German racism. Nonetheless, Germans are fascinated by Goldhagen, probably because they still are trying to sort out how their parents and grandparents allowed six million Jews to be murdered.

Goldhagen's book is No. 4 on the best-seller list of the news magazine *Der Spiegel*. Some bookstores quickly sold out when the German translation was released last month.

The Kammerspiele theater also sold out its 400 seats.

Goldhagen debated historians Reinhard Ruerup, Goetz Aly and Hannes Heer; Robert Leicht, editor in chief of the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*; and Jan P. Reemtsma, founder of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, which sponsored the debate.

The debate began on a polite note, but soon became biting.

Ruerup, who teaches at Berlin's Technical University, said Goldhagen overlooked German Jews' social and professional achievements before World War I. The lives of German Jews were admired by Jews in other countries, he said. "Germany was a country which Jews wanted to move to," said Ruerup, to applause from the audience. Ruerup argued that even some who carried out murders of Jews were reluctant to be involved, and accused

Goldhagen of ignoring facts that didn't fit his thesis.

Goldhagen retorted: "I reject the notion that I have selectively used material. This is not how I operate."

In the end, even Goldhagen won a round of applause. He praised Germans for overcoming anti-semitism and joining the community of civilized nations. "Few who read *Mein Kampf* today would say 'das stimmt,'" Goldhagen said, using the German phrase for "That's right."

Ruth Schindler, a 67-year-old Czech Jew who barely escaped being gassed at Auschwitz, and her husband Franz, 68, an ethnic German from Prague, watched last Wednesday's debate. The two were high-school sweethearts before World War II. He was drafted into the German army in 1939; she was sent to Auschwitz. They met again after Ruth was liberated by the Soviet army from another Nazi camp in 1945.

Asked if she believed most Germans had murderous thoughts toward Jews at the time, Mrs. Schindler paused. "Germans watched as innocent people were deported," she said. "They said nothing. But I don't think that all thought that Jews should die."

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האזנה מאלו

Key Representative Rates

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

US economy growing but wages rising, Fed says

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The economy kept expanding moderately in August with no clear sign of inflation, the Federal Reserve said yesterday, though wages appeared to be climbing faster than prices.

The Fed's latest Beige Book summary of national economic activity was issued amid worries that central bank policy-makers may boost interest rates this month to quash inflation risks.

Despite its cautioning about rising wages and labor shortages, the Fed summary did not clearly warn of mounting inflation and financial markets rallied after its noon release.

"Inflation indicators ... were varied and generally inconclusive, although there appears to be greater upward pressure on wages than on prices," concluded the Beige Book summary, prepared by the Cleveland Fed.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 22 points at 5,749 in afternoon trading while the bond market recovered from earlier weakness and the yield on the 30-year bond was steady at 7.11 percent, the same as Tuesday's close.

The findings were based on information collected in interviews with businesses before September 4 in the 12 Fed districts. They will be used when the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee meets on September 24 to decide interest-rate strategy.

The Beige Book surveys are released at about six-week intervals, with the last one published on August 7. The latest survey suggested the economy was holding its momentum, edging the second half, rather than slowing as the Fed and many private economists had forecast.

"Business activity in most Districts is reported to be generally good and expanding moderately," the Fed said.

The Minneapolis Fed mentioned a local telephone company that was forced to issue cellular phones to new homeowners because it could not lay cable quickly enough to service them.

Few businesses in any Fed districts saw big price increases since the last survey was concluded on July 30, but none indicated that inflation pressures were subsiding. Some industrial commodities like lumber and steel were rising in price, but it was generally confined to a few markets.

"Wage gains have tended to outstrip price increases, however," the Fed said. The upward pressure on wages seemed most intense in the Richmond and San Francisco Fed districts, but many regions reported wage increases for entry-level jobs.

Many regions saw "pockets" of labor market tightness, with a few saying the scarcity of workers was broadly based. The Chicago Fed said labor markets there were "tighter than the nation as a whole," yet there was no sign of rising wage demands.

The Fed said manufacturing activity was "either expanding or holding steady at a high level" across the country. Few constraints were seen on industrial capacity, and companies in the Boston and Atlanta regions were adding to capacity.

"Building activity remains strong in most parts of the country," the Fed said. "Agriculture conditions vary widely by District, but most regions report better crop conditions today than earlier in the summer."

Back-to-school shopping was "off to a good start," the Fed reported. "Several districts indicated that sales are meeting - or exceeding - expectations," it added.

Inventories of unsold goods at the retail level were in line with sales, although some retail stores in the Boston region were cautiously building stocks.

Auto sales were described as "flat or declining slightly" in most parts of the country, but that was partly because dealer inventories of popular models were lean.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, AFTERNOON, and MORNING. Lists various companies and their stock prices.

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL

Two-Sided Index: 186.77 (-1.69%)

Maof Index: 186.78 (-1.67%)

SHARES dropped as investors awaited the consumer price index figure for August and assessed an International Monetary Fund report calling on the government to cut the budget.

The market was led lower by companies like chemicals producers Makhsheshim and Agan, down 4.5 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively. Clal Electronics, down 2.75%, and Discount Investments, which shed 4.5%.

Investors had expected the government to report yesterday that the trade deficit widened 20% in August from July, and the IMF assessment as well, said Moshe Jonas, who runs the Jerusalem office of the securities firm Moritz and Tuchler.

They are looking to the CPI report on Sunday for indications about interest rates, the broker said.

"The central bank in the best cases will lower rates 0.2 or 0.3 percentage point to show its good intentions," he said.

"In the worst case," Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel "will leave rates where they are, even if the CPI" exceeds expectations of a rise of about 0.6%, he said.

The Two-Sided Index dropped 1.69% to 186.77, while the Maof Index lost 1.67% to 186.78.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 63 million of shares traded, 13% less than the month's daily average of 72.2m, and just about last month's average of 63.3m. More than two issues fell for every one that rose.

TASE drops as investors wait for CPI figures

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World markets dip

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares dipped from near record levels reached earlier in the week as inflation jitters unsettled Wall Street and selected Loodoo stocks succumbed to profit-taking after recent strong gains.

The FTSE 100 closed down 10.5 points short of a new peak on Tuesday, at 3,905.6, after closing 2.7 points short of a new peak on Tuesday.

FRANKFURT - German equities ended a nervous bourse session slightly lower, underpinned by stronger dollar boosting exporters and firmer Bunds. Sentiment was nervous after the Dow Jones index fell overnight, prompted by the Fed governor's US inflation warning.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 4.06 points at 2,035.06. PARIS - French stocks finished marginally weaker, barely above the day lows, after five days of rises. Carmaker Renault suffered the biggest loss after predicting it could end the year in the red.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed down 4.06 points at 2,035.06. TOKYO - Tokyo stocks rebounded by the close after trading lower for most of the day, with the market capped by profit-taking. Most participants were reluctant to move actively before the Nikkei's September futures and options are settled on Friday.

The Hang Seng index closed with a 12.74 point gain at 20,571.04. HONG KONG - Hong Kong stocks ended with small gains, after investors spent a cautious session searching for direction and awaiting fiscal 1996 earnings from the Henderson group due later.

The Hang Seng index closed with a 12.74 point gain at 20,571.04. JOHANNESBURG - South African stocks took a tumble as a morning slump in the industrials sector, spurred by futures trade, dragged the all-share index down.

In a reversal of Tuesday's trade, the index was caught between a tumbling industrials sector and a resurgent gold index seeking to claw back some of its recent falls. The overall index ended at 6,780.0, down 9.2 points, with industrials sliding 34.0 points to 7,991.9. The golds index reversed its recent trend to end up 26.0 points at 1,747.2.

STOCKS rise as worries over inflation fall

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks rose yesterday, with the Dow Jones industrial average creeping toward record levels as a new report reinforced optimism that inflation isn't alarming enough to send interest rates soaring.

Trading remained somewhat restrained, however, as investors hedged for some key inflation data later this week. The Dow rose 27.74 points to close at 5,754.92, pulling within 24 points of its all-time best finish at 5,778.00, set May 22. Earlier in the afternoon, the famed blue-chip barometer was up more than 40 points, or less than 11 points from the record.

Both the Dow and broader measure had sagged in the morning amid some weakness in the bond market. But bond prices jumped higher at noon after the Federal Reserve published the results of its periodic survey on regional business conditions.

The survey found that inflation pressures from rising payroll costs are building in many areas of the country, but they have yet to translate into substantial price increases. The report made more likely the prospect that Federal policy makers would raise the central bank's short-term interest rates to guard against any inflationary burst.

Higher interest rates can hurt stocks by slowing consumer spending and raising corporate operating costs. But the financial markets responded positively to the report because it reinforced a growing optimism that the threat of inflation isn't alarming enough to warrant a series of sharp, profit-choking rate hikes by the Fed. A small increase in lending rates has already been factored into the market, many analysts say.

Virgin head Branson warns against British Airways/American deal

alliance would hurt Virgin Atlantic's expansion and profits. "But until we know what form it comes out in - if it comes out at all - it's difficult to be more precise," he said.

Branson said he was comfortable with estimates for Virgin Atlantic's profits for the year ending August 1997, of about \$65 million to \$70m. (\$101m. to 109m.) on revenues of \$900m. (\$1.4 billion).

"The effects of any alliance would not take place for another 12 months or so, so it would not affect those numbers," Branson said.

Even if the carriers agreed to concessions, such as reducing their hold on the majority of slots at London's Heathrow Airport, Branson said the power of the two airlines would be lethal to the travel industry.

"The power that they will have over the travel trade, the power over corporate entities and over frequent flier programs would be such that ... they'd still be a real threat to other airlines and dictate prices for the consumer," Branson said.

For consumers to see any real benefits in selection and fares, Branson said regulators must pursue broader "open skies" aviation treaties.

The current aviation talks between the United States and Britain are merely a piecemeal attempt to liberate aviation pacts, Branson said.

Instead of negotiating aviation agreements one country at a time, he suggested that barriers should be removed throughout the United States and Europe.

"Open skies must mean open skies. It must mean that Southwest Airlines should be able to fly anywhere in Europe. Fly across the Atlantic and fly anywhere in America," Branson said.

"And open skies would mean that Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Express could do the same."

"The benefit of that to the consumer would be enormous," he said. "In any other business - car manufacturing, soft drinks, the record industry - there are no boundaries. Why should the airline business be any different?"

Branson said the open skies pact previously reached between the United States and Germany was biased toward American carriers.

In Brussels, the European Commission said it would look into any complaint from Branson that Scandinavian Airlines Systems was undercutting prices on the Brussels-Copenhagen route, which Virgin Atlantic launched last Friday at up to 75 percent below competitors' fares.

Content for PointCast Canada will include the Globe and Mail, the country's national newspaper, Canada News Wire, Canadian Corporate News and Reuters.

PointCast Canada also announced it was negotiating with the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. on the possible inclusion of content from English and French television and radio services.

Jim Wickert, vice president of Worldwide business development for PointCast in the United States, said the privately-held company was looking for further joint ventures around the world. He said the company was talking to potential partners with the aim of starting up services in the Europe and the Pacific Rim.

British unions fall out over minimum wage demand

The unions, at the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress, also passed a motion mentioning a lower minimum wage plus a statement deferring a decision until after the election.

In an acrimonious debate, Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of the giant public sector union Unifield, hit out at union bosses who demanded patience until after the election.

His demand for 4.26 pounds an hour was supported by miners' leader Arthur Scargill, who set up his Socialist Labour Party in May after quitting Labour in disgust at its centrist turn.

"I'm fed up to my back teeth with people telling us not to rock the boat ahead of the election," Scargill said. "I'm fed up with Labour leaders telling us not to rock the boat, then intervening in our affairs."

Fast-growing PointCast launches first foreign foray

PointCast officials said their service is growing by 250,000 new subscribers a month and already has some 50,000 users in Canada.

Users download the operating software from PointCast for free while the service is supported by animated advertisements that reside in a corner of the user's screen. In Canada, the World Wide Web address is http://www.pointcast.ca.

Company officials said 85 percent of its users were from corporations, likely because the service is designed for users constantly online. The service can be customized by individual users and when not in use becomes a screen saver with continuously updating information.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with 5 columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFY, FFI. Shows exchange rates between various currencies.

מאמר מן אלבום

WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

HELEN KAYE
MUSIC by Liszt and Brahms is on the program of the season's opening concert at the Beit Jamal Monastery.

GENERAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT
TENOR Evgeny Shapovalov performs a program comprising popular Neapolitan songs including 'O Sole Mio' and 'Torna a Sorrento'.



Dave (Alec Baldwin) nearly gets killed in the thriller 'Heaven's Prisoners.'

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN
*** COLD COMFORT FARM - Based on Stella Gibbons's 1932 novel, this is a quirky little social satire about a headstrong young woman with clear ideas about literature and interior design.

work. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

*** HEAVEN'S PRISONERS - In Phil Joanou's moody thriller, Alec Baldwin plays a former New Orleans cop who finds himself back in action when he and his long-legged, sympathetic wife (Kelly Lynch) witness the crash of a plane in the bayou near their home.



PHILADELPHIA

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 2
13:00 Make a Wish 13:30 Super Duper 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Tick Tack 15:00 Clipp 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

CHANNEL 5
6:00 The Selina Scott Show 7:00 NBC News with Tom Brokaw 7:30 ITN World News

CHANNEL 5
6:30 Bodies in Motion 7:30 Basic Training 18:00 Bodies in Motion 18:30 To Be Announced

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

SOLUTIONS section providing answers to the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with a grid and clues for a standard crossword puzzle.

CABLE

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 2
13:00 Make a Wish 13:30 Super Duper 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Tick Tack 15:00 Clipp 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful

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WHERE TO GO

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem Super Pharm, 3 Hahatshari, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Haifa, Netanya, Herzliya, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Atarot, Ramat Hasharon, Rosh HaAyin, Ashdod, Be'er Sheva, Haifa, Netanya, Herzliya, Kiryat Motzkin, Kiryat Atarot, Ramat Hasharon, Rosh HaAyin.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot, Kiryat Atarot.

PHILADELPHIA

Daring escape lands 4 Israelis in Turkish Cypriot jail

Armed cyclists freed 2 friends before surrendering

NICOSIA (AP) - Two armed Israelis on motorcycles halted a police car yesterday and freed two other Israelis being taken to court to face charges of possessing \$7,200 in counterfeit money, police said.

The two bikers and the freed pair fled on the two motorcycles into the UN buffer zone splitting Cyprus into the Greek south and the Turkish north, before later surrendering to Turkish Cypriot police.

"They came speeding down here like a bullet," a Greek Cypriot policeman said at the southern checkpoint of the buffer zone, near Nicosia's old Ledra Palace hotel.

Greek Cypriot police identified the two freed Israelis as Shuki Samana, 24, a car salesman, and Avi Biton, 21, a tire repairman. The Turkish Cypriot cops who identified their liberators

as Shimon Amor, 17, and David Biton, 24. It was not known if the two Bitons are related.

About an hour after the four fled north, two UN officers brought two red motorcycles from the buffer zone and parked them outside the Ledra Palace police post.

All four surrendered to the Turkish Cypriot police, the Turkish Cypriot news agency said, quoting a statement by Turkish Cypriot Police Chief Eray Merturk.

The agency later said the four were remanded for three days to give police time to investigate their case.

Merturk said the Greek Cypriot side had not sought extradition of the four from the north, where a breakaway state recognized only by Turkey was declared in 1983.

The UN Forces in Cyprus, however, asked Turkish Cypriot

authorities to hand the four men over to the UN for prosecution in Greek Cypriot courts for allegedly threatening UN peacekeepers with knives while fleeing.

Greek Cypriot police spokesman Glafcos Xenos said the two motorcycles pulled alongside the police car driving the two Israelis to court when it stopped at a traffic light not far from the Nicosia prison.

"One had a gun, and the other a knife. They quickly cut the handcuff chains linking the two prisoners to each other," Xenos said. "All four jumped on the motorcycles and sped away."

The two freed prisoners were arrested on August 30, after police found \$7,200 in suspected counterfeit US currency in their possession. Avi Biton and Samana were ordered held pending formal charges, set for yesterday in Larnaca.



Avi Biton (left) and Shuki Samana, freed by two accomplices yesterday, during a court appearance on September 6 in Larnaca for allegedly possessing counterfeit money. The pair and their accomplices later surrendered by Turkish Cypriot police.

Location	Temp	Forecast
Golan	16-29	Partly cloudy to clear. Slight rise in temperatures.
Haifa	21-29	
Tiberias	20-30	
Afula	18-32	
Samartha	18-29	
Tel Aviv	22-30	
Jerusalem	17-29	
Beer Sheva	20-32	
Eilat	25-38	
Dead Sea	25-38	

Location	Low	High	Cloud	Wind	Sea
Alexandria	66	80	18	21	ch
Bahia	74	84	15	18	ch
Buenos Aires	57	68	10	18	ch
Cairo	72	82	10	18	ch
Chicago	64	76	10	18	ch
Copenhagen	54	64	10	18	ch
Helsinki	52	62	10	18	ch
Hong Kong	74	84	10	18	ch
London	64	74	10	18	ch
Los Angeles	62	72	10	18	ch
Madrid	64	74	10	18	ch
Manila	76	86	10	18	ch
Moscow	54	64	10	18	ch
New York	66	76	10	18	ch
Paris	62	72	10	18	ch
Rome	64	74	10	18	ch
Sydney	64	74	10	18	ch
Tokyo	66	76	10	18	ch
Toronto	64	74	10	18	ch
Winnipeg	64	74	10	18	ch
Zurich	64	74	10	18	ch

Kollek: Bar-Ilan situation virtually unsolvable

HAIM SHAPIRO

FORMER Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek said yesterday that during his administration, dozens of streets were closed to traffic on Shabbat without incident.

Testifying before the public committee on transportation on Shabbat, headed by Dr. Zvi Zamet, Kollek added that it might have been possible to solve the dispute over traffic on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan before the issue got in the spotlight, but that now the problem is virtually unsolvable.

The committee was appointed by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy at the request of the High Court, which refused to rule on the Bar-Ilan issue until the entire issue of closing streets on Shabbat is reviewed.

Ramat Road had only ended after a group of secular activists had broken the windows of an apartment house from which the protests and stone throwing had originated. However, he added, he still fears expected bared rule over the city.

"I believe that the secular have been more considerate of the haredim than the haredim will be of the secular when they take control," Kollek said.

In this context, Zamet cited an expert who had appeared before the committee and predicted that in 2010, Jerusalem would have 250,000 baredim, 250,000 Arabs, and 350,000 secular, traditional, and modern religious Jews combined.

However, Mayor Ehud Olmert, who also testified yesterday, said that the so-called haredi takeover of the city is more a matter of image than reality. He recalled the nightlife on weekends and the fact that performers at the opening of the Israel Festival had performed nude, with barely a murmur.

Kollek recalled that shortly after he assumed office, City Council decided to close King George Street during prayer times at Jeshurun Synagogue, then the largest synagogue in Jerusalem. The issue passed without protest, he recalled.

Kollek also said that his administration had in effect divided the city between the religious and the secular, with no commercial activity in the haredi sections on Shabbat and extensive nightlife on Shabbat in the other parts of the city. At the time, he said, haredi City Council members had agreed to the arrangement, but refused to formalize it in law.

He also revealed that demonstrations against Shabbat traffic on the

Gore, Kemp woo Jewish vote with pro-Israel speeches at NYC bash

MARILYN HENRY

IN speeches finely tuned to the American presidential campaign, Vice President Al Gore and his Republican rival, Jack Kemp, vied Tuesday night to show how committed each is to Israel and to a relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"History will record that Israel has never had a better friend in the White House than President Bill Clinton," Gore said at a New York dinner to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

day visit to the US, Netanyahu called both Gore and Kemp friends of the Jewish people and made no reference to any disagreements with the Clinton administration. Instead, he noted that when the US challenged Iraq last week, it was only Israel and Britain that quickly supported the US move without reservations.

He said he intends not merely to search for peace, but to achieve it. However, Netanyahu said: "The temptation is always there to sign pieces of paper. But securing peace is not easy. We want formal peace, secure peace, and a prosperous peace for ourselves and our neighbors."

"Just as we once walked side by side in partnership for peace with Yitzhak Rabin, we are proud to walk by your side, Mr. Prime Minister, in your search for peace with security," Gore said.

The US recognizes that Israel's aspirations for peace must be balanced with demands for security, and it is the Israelis who must determine how to keep this balance, said Gore, who was repeatedly interrupted by applause.

"I do not doubt for a moment that this prime minister will seek peace with all of Israel's neighbors, seek it cautiously but energetically," Gore said, warning that Israel's neighbors should not "mistake his sternness for belligerence."

At his last public appearance during his two-

And though he said he was not trying to market Netanyahu's book, he held up a copy, saying it was the blueprint for how a Dole administration would fight terrorism.

Facing an audience of 1,000 well-heeled and politically connected Jews, Kemp also sought to recover from published remarks in which he appeared to praise Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the black separatist Nation of Islam. Farrakhan, who has cozy relations with Libya, is widely seen as an antisemite.

Kemp said his remarks had been "sorely misrepresented," and called upon Farrakhan to "once and for all renounce antisemitism."

Netanyahu avoided all but the Gore and Kemp speeches during the three-plus-hour dinner, which was intended to raise funds for the Presidents Conference. Instead, he caused commotion at the front of the room as he - and a phalanx of Israeli and US security men - escorted Kemp and Gore, separately, in and out of the hall, and reportedly held private meetings with them during his lengthy absences.

When it was his turn to speak, Netanyahu proved himself an adept veteran of the dinner circuit, easing the restlessness in the room by saying: "This is definitely a Jewish dinner. Three hours into it and you haven't begun the main course."

Referred to his Israel agenda, Kemp said that a Republican administration would not follow the "misguided efforts" to force Israel to give back the Golan Heights.

Kemp also reminded the audience that it was Bob Dole who had introduced legislation in the Senate to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

"I believe that by 1999 even the US State Department can learn how to say, 'Next year in Jerusalem,'" Kemp said, a blast at Clinton's reticence about moving the embassy - which was shared by the Labor government.

Supreme Court concludes hearing Kikos murderer's appeal

EVERLYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court finished hearing Suleiman Abeid's appeal against his conviction for the rape and murder of Hanit Kikos yesterday, but Justices Shlomo Levine, Eliezer Goldberg, and Ya'akov Kedmi will give their verdict at a later date.

At the hearing, prosecutor Nava Ben-Or responded to the arguments raised by defense attorney Avigdor Feldman on Tuesday, and to the questions presented at the start of the session by Goldberg, who said he was troubled by the many inaccuracies and contradictions in Abeid's confessions to the police, which were the basis of his conviction.

For instance, Goldberg noted, Abeid described the 17-year-old

Kikos as being 30 or 40; he erroneously described her as a red-head; he initially said he raped her three times, but later said he raped her only once; he said several times that she might come back, which he would know was impossible if he had murdered her; he could not remember whether she was wearing pants or a dress; he said he strangled her with one hand while driving, which appears medically impossible; and he said he had buried the body in the Dudaim dump, when in fact it was in a BeerSheba drainage ditch - a lie which was pointless once he had confessed.

Ben-Or responded that many of the contradictions could be explained by a war between Abeid's emotional need to confess and the dictates of his intelligence. After being impelled to confess by an inner need, she said, his brain would reassert itself and cause him to backtrack.

Abeid's behavior was psychologically consistent with a real confession, Ben-Or argued. For instance, at one court session, he burst into tears. When he got back to the jail, he asked a policeman whether he had seen the outburst, and told him it was caused by the fact that he had been "remembering." When the policeman asked what he had remembered, he

responded: "I remembered that girl." Ben-Or also denied Feldman's claim that Abeid's confession had been "guided" by the police. His first confession was to a police agent planted in his cell, very shortly after he was remanded, and it included details which he could not have heard from the police, she said.

Regarding the manner in which he killed Kikos, Ben-Or noted that according to a medical opinion by the state's pathologist, it would be possible to strangle someone one-handed while driving, if the person were unconscious and already close to death. In Abeid's first confession, he said he had first killed Kikos severely, so this is a reasonable scenario, she said.

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Testimony begins in trial of MK Meir Sheerit

THE Jerusalem District Court began hearing testimony in the trial of former Jewish Agency treasurer MK Meir Sheerit, who is charged with misusing his agency credit card.

Sheerit is charged with using a Jewish Agency credit card to buy personal items without reporting them, and of taking his family on vacation in the US at agency expense. He claimed the visit was a business trip.

Prosecutor Nurit Blobstein, in presenting

the charges against Sheerit, said that on the trip in question, his wife's tickets were paid for by the agency expense, while his children's tickets were obtained with frequent flyer points obtained while on trips for agency business.

Sheerit claimed that on the visit - which he said was a business trip to Norfolk, Virginia - he was accompanied by his wife based on the understanding in the agency that once every three years a member of the board's wife could

accompany him abroad, and that the members could use their frequent flyer points for this purpose. Blobstein noted that during the trip, the family went to Disneyland and shows with the children.

Regarding the second indictment, the prosecution claims that Sheerit used his agency credit card 40 times to buy personal items without reporting them. Sheerit said he reported all of them by writing "personal" on the credit card receipts.

(10m)

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